SPORTS / A27

Vengeful Green Archers nip Blue Eagles, clinch **UAAP** semis bonus

GMA: Take case to SC, where there's no politics

By Michael Lim Ubac and Riza T. Okhondra

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS ordered Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza to bring the government case in the controversial National Broadband Network (NBN) to the Supreme Court, where "there is no politics." BUSINESS / B1

World oil prices hit \$81/barrel; Opec boosting output too late ENTERTAINMENT / E1 Why KC has come home after graduating in Paris

FEARLESS VI

8 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 283 PIB website: www.inquirer.net

THE WASHINGTON TO THE WASHINGTON TO THE THE WASHINGTON



WORLD/ A25

Nerds back 'manga' comic book/animé lover as Japan's new prime minister

Brave kidney donor was afraid of needle

By Leila B. Salaverria and Jeannette I. Andrade

IT WASN'T SO MUCH THE thought of losing one of his kidneys as the pain he felt when nurses jabbed needles into his arms that made Felicito "Muray" Gu-BRAVE/A20





IN YOUR FACE "Back off," Jose de Venecia ili quotes First Gentlemen Mile Arroyo as having told him in March at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club while pointing a "menacing" finger about two inches from his face. This was Venecia s most explosive disclosure to the three Senate committees at the start of their probe on Tuesday into the ZTE-NBN deal. Sen. Jinggoy Estrada called the "mystery man"

"mister ni ma'am."

Mike A is mystery man

NEWS,

'He tried to bully me to back off NBN-ZTE deal' JDV III very much JDV

By Dona Pazzibugan and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BUSINESSMAN JOSE de Venecia III yesterday named Jose Miguel Arroyo as the "mystery man" who supported the controversial \$329million broadband deal with China, thrust his finger inches away from his face and barked at him to "back off" from the deal.

On live television, De Venccia demonstrated at a Senate inquiry how the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo supposedly tried to browbeat him during a meeting at a golf clubhouse attended by Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., the alleged broker of the China project.

"He asked me to back off [from the National Broadband Network project]," De Venecia, head of a rival firm, told the senators, recounting the meet-Country Club in Mandaluyong City in mid-March.

De Venecia is the founder of

FG foes not

surprised;

Erap son

By Christian V. Esguerra

sickness or in health.

karma, says

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-AR-

royo's husband manages to draw controversy whether in

Lawmakers, most of them representatives of militant party-list groups, yesterday said

they were not surprised that

Jose Miguel Arroyo had been

implicated in yet another scan-

dal, this time involving the

\$329-million National Broad-

band Network (NBN) deal.

COMFORT ZONE: After a hectic day in Dipolog on Monday inaugurating projects and meeting with local officials, President Arroyo hies off to Dakak ing at the Wack Wack Golf and beach resort in Dapitan to spend the night. A walk through the white sands of Dakak is a refreshing diversion from the affairs of state. What did GMA know, when did she know it?

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

WHAT DID THE PRESIDENT KNOW and when did she know it?

A businessman's disclosure that the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo intervened in favor of China's ZTE Corp. has spurred the Senate to look into how deeply she was involved in the National

Broadband Network (NBN) project. The First Couple and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., during a 10-city visit to China, were invited by the ZTE president to play golf in Shenzen where Commission

on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos was one of the guest players, Jose Joey" de Venecia III, a son of the Speaker, said in his restimony at the Senate yesterday.

Based on his father's account, ZTE offered to build a broadband network on a government-to-government basis, to which Ms Arroyo suggested that the company follow "Joey's proposal," a build-operate-transfer (BOT) scheme, the younger De Venecia said.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc., the company founded by the younger De Venecia, subDoc, lawyer say FG trip set long before Senate probe

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Michael Lim Ubac and Norman Bordadora

JOSE MIGUEL ARROYO JUST WANTED TO have a two-week vacation in Europe with his friends and was not trying to evade the Senate investigation where he was linked to yet another graft-ridden deal, his heart surgeon said DOC, LAWYER/A12

In the fast-changing field of information and communica-

son; set to

marry Dec.

THE POLITICIAN IN THE FA-

ther is so much evident in the son in the way Jose "Joey" de

Venecia III, 44, addressed Glo-

ria Macapagal-Arroyo as "my President" in yesterday's na-

tionally televised Senate hear-

This wasn't lost on Sen. Panfi-

Lacson suggested that given the shenanigans surfacing

in connection with the \$329-

million National Broadband

Network (NBN) project with

China, shouldn't the name-

sake son of Speaker Jose de Venecia reconsider his show

Senators fear

obsolescence'

"DYNAMIC OBSOLESCENCE."

This was how Sen. Rodolfo Bi-

azon summed up the apprehen-

sion of the Senate committees

looking into the \$329-million

National Broadband Network

'dynamic

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

(NBN) project.

FDV HIV A20

By Norman Bordadora

lo Lacson.

tion, nothing remains the same in the short term in the constant search for more efficient technology, Biazon said.

During yesterday's hearing, all SENATORS/A12

GMA's House allies in disarray; kin to the defense

By Christian V. Esguerra and Norman Bordadora

ALLIES OF PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo in Congress were thrown in disarray following the damning testimony of businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III

tleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Ar- Pilipino (Kampi) party. royo in the controversial \$329million National Broadband Network deal.

"What's going on? What's happening to our coalition?" asked Cebu Rep. Pablo Garcia, 81-year-old stalwart of Ms Arroyo's Kabalikat ng Malayang

Garcia seemed at a loss s to days," he said in a phone interview with the Inquirer.

whether the testimony would further strain ties between the President's allies in Kampi and those belonging to the Lakas-Christian Muslim

Democrats. Majority Floor Leader Arthur

Garcia was not sure not see a realignment of forces.

"A great majority of the congressmen support both the President and the Speaker. You cannot make them form two lines with one for those supporting the President and the other, for the Speaker," Defen-

GMA'S HOUSE/ AZO

And San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito, a son of the recently

yesterday implicating First Gen-

the impact of the revelations of the Speaker's son on the already unsteady relationship within the ruling coalition in the House. "Let's just wait in the coming

Defensor of Iloilo said he did

SIX DIGIT

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy sides with scattered rateshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the coentry will be parity cloudy to cloudy with isotated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or

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Logaspi	Partly Cloudy	Gagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
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Second RONTPAGE



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Erap now open to pardon

WHAT'S INSIDE

M'NICOLE' RAPE



case may yet reach UN /A6

M ONE IN 10 families a victim of crime - SWS

120 NO MIDNIGHT

deal at DENR, says former usec

■ JAPANESE

tourist barred

at airport for

on the plane

hurting Pinay GF



/A5

FRUITS OF HOPE

President Macapagal-Arroyo tries a mangosteen that is a part of the Fruits of Hope delivery from Davao that arrived at the Villamor Airbase aboard C130 Air Force plane. The Fruits of Hope is a socioeconomic and humanitarian project that brings the farm and sea produce of Mindanao and Sulu to the retailers, vendors and consumers in Metro Manila. With her are, from left, Sen. Richard Gordon, North Cotabato Governor Jesus Sacdalan and North Cotabato Vice Governor Emmanuel Piñol.

^{/A8} Imelda wants speedy trial

By Jocelyn R. Uy

INVOKING THE RIGHT TO A speedy trial, former Pirst Lady imelda Marcos yesterday urged the Sandiganbayan to conduct marathon hearings on her 10 graft cases.

The grant cases were in connection to her alleged management ongoing for several years now variety of ailments which have

wealth from 1968 to 1971. In a four-page motion filed with the antigraft court's Fifth Division, lawyers Benjamin Santos and Ray Montri Santos noted that the trial in the said cases has been

of five Marcos dummy founda- and given the "slow rate" of the tions believed to have been used proceedings, it might take the to hide \$590 million of ill-gotten court years before it could hand down a verdict.

The trial of Marcos' graft cases officially began in 2000.

"The accused is now 78 years old and has been enduring the effects for some time now of a

afflicted her [she] has reasonably been in a state of anxiety and serious concern with the pendency of the said cases ..." the lawyers said.

OUSTED PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA, sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of plunder, said yesterday he would consider a presidential pardon that could set him free.

Estrada earlier said he would not accept a presidential pardon. But in an interview with the The Associated Press yesterday, Estrada said he would consider accepting a pardon if it did not amount to an admission of guilt and did not come with any preconditions.

It was the first time Estrada had publicly stated he was open to such a possible offer from his political nemesis, President Macapagal-Arroyo.

In his interview with AR Estrada was quoted as saying "I first have to read the fine print of any such offer."

Ms Arroyo has not yet indicated she was ready to offer him a deal but her political allies talk openly about the possibility.

Estrada's acceptance of a pardon, which can only be granted by Macapagal-Arroyo, could help ease political tensions that have gripped the country since 2001, when he was ousted in a nonviolent "people power" revoit she helped lead.

Speaker Jose de Venecia of the ruling Lakas-CMD had said he would propose an all-encompassing amnesty that would include Estrada.

Senate president Manuel Villar, in a talk with reporters in Davao City yesterday, reiterated his own call to have the convictformer president released from detention.

Villar, who ran with the opposition ticket, said Estrada's release would put "closure" to the on Wednesday after a landmark rift between his camp and that six-year trial on charges that he of Ms Arroyo.

closure to the Arroyo-Estrada ed Press and Dennis Jay Sanproblem and the final stage tos, Inquirer Mindanao

would be the eventual release from jail of the former President," Villar said.

He said that Estrada's conviction had clearly not put an end to what he described as a bitter chapter in the country's politics.

"The end here is not the verdict," Villar said, adding that unless Estrada is freed, the country's political situation would remain in distress.

"It's about time this country moves forward," Villar said.

Villar, who was himself instrumental in Estrada's fall from power, admitted he met with the former President on Sunday and talked about his possible release. The Senate President said the best option could be amnesty.

"It is important that (the Various political leaders say terms) are acceptable to President Estrada," he said.

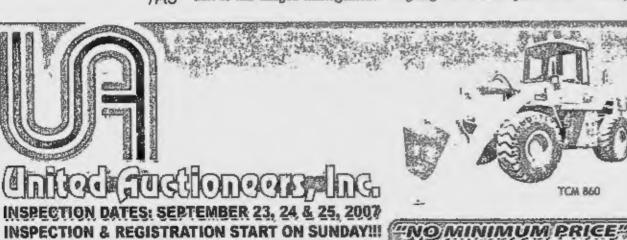
Opposition Sen. Mar Roxas filed a resolution on Monday calling on Ms Arroyo to offer a pardon to Estrada to heal political divisions.

"The grant of pardon to (Estrada) on humanitarian grounds should not in any way be construed as condoning corruption or as diminishing the legal weight of the (conviction) ruling," Roxas said.

"While our people are fragmented, they share one thing: they remain poor, and it is because our politics has failed to pay attention to them," Roxas

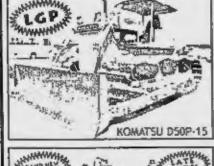
Estrada was convicted by the antigraft Sandiganbayan court took bribes and kickbacks while "In my view, we need to put in office. Jim Gomes, Associat-

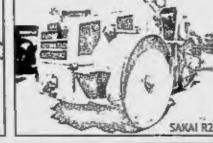
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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

- 1. The Department of National Defense (Armed Forces of the Philippines), through the General Appropriation Act and the AFP Modernization Program Act Trust Fund, intends to apply the sum of SIXTY MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY POUR THOUSAND PESOS (PhP 80,824,000.00) being the total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Supply and Delivery of 76mm Cal. 62 Armmunitient. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected on Bid opening
- The DNDAFP now unites sealed Bids from eligible Balders for the 78mm Cel. 82 ammunition Acquisition Project of the Philippine Navy. The expected delivery of GOODS or contract duration is 270 CALENDAR DAYS as per Bidding Documents. The description of an eligible Bidder & contained in Section R of the Bidding Documents, ITB

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Interested Bidders may obtain further information from DND Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) Secretarial and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8.00AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Finday excluding holidays

 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-relundable fee at the amount of TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 25,000.00). The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received. personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

The AFP/DND will hold a Pre-Bid Confessore open to all interested parties on October 4, 2007 at 2:60 P.M. at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bidg., Camp General Emilio Aguinatdo, Quezon City Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before October 18, 2007 at 2:00 P.M. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed

under RA 9184 and its RRA. Late bids shall not be accepted. But opening shall be as October 18, 2007 at 2:09 P.M. at the DND Conference Room, 3rd Floor, DND Bldg., Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend at the address below.

Only offers or bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers or their duly authorized representatives shall be entertained. The GOODS should be used by the armed forces of the country of origin or by the armed forces of at least two countries in accordance with SEC 4(b) of R.A. 7896.

To lacitate eligibility checking, manufecturers end/or prespective bidders who wish to perticipate in the public budding may apply for registration with the DND BAC, through the DND BAC Secretariat, at least fitteen (15) days prior to the scheduled submession and opening of bids for the project pursuant to DND BAC Cir D1-2005 did 12 May 2005 (copy of the provider can be downloaded at the website specified below). The DNDIAFP reserves the right is accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

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Ernel bacsecretariat@dnd.gov.ph Website www alpmodernization mit on (Sod) ASEC ROBERTO G NUQUI Chairman, DND Bids end

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



PNP wants more money for new cops

Police is seeking a budget of P883 million for 2008, documents acquired by the INQUIRER yesterday showed.

The outlay is 2.23 percent higher than the 2007 PNP budget.

The difference would cover the recruitment of 3,500 policemen, according to a briefing paper on 2010 to reach the ideal ratio of per said.

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL the national crime situation dated 1:500," the paper said.

the police-to-population ratio struct 24 new police stations. from 1:705 to 1:700. This is in line with the President's directive

The increase would also be "The hiring of additional po- used to acquire 5,000 guns as licemen next year will improve well as petrol vehicles and to con-

"The increase in the PNP fiscal year 2008 President's budget will of hiring 15,000 policemen over surely enhance the capability of the five-year period from 2006 to the national police force," the pa-

Verzosa, PNP Deputy Chief for Operations (DCO), said the PNP had set up two model police stations in Marikina City and Marawi City.

According to Versoza, the two stations would serve as the blueprint for police station buildings across the country.

Aside from the physical look of the

Deputy Director General Jesus stations, Versoza said the PNP wanted to implement standards for police methods, systems and procedures, as well as human resource, technical and equipment capabilities.

He said these were "important factors that greatly impact on the timely and quality delivery of police service at the police station Alcuin Papa



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One in 10 families a victim of crime –SWS

NEARLY ONE IN EVERY 10 FAMILIES (9.6 percent) was the victim of a common crime in the first half of this year, according to a recent survey by Social Weather Stations (SWS).

The figure is slightly higher than the 8.6 percent victimization rate reported in the same period last year but represents a general decline from a high of 14.9 percent in August 2004 and 13.2 from September 2006 to February 2007.

The least number of common crimes were reported in the Visayas, the most were in Metro Manila.

"The SWS victimization figures are much higher than the number of crimes actually reported to the police, and is highest in Metro Manila," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Director General Oscar Calderon, chief of the Philippine National Police, said in a meeting with police officials in La Trinidad, Benguet that their own statistics show that the country's crime rate has gone down by 6.8 percent. But he did not mention specific figures or the period of review.

Second quarter report

The SWS survey, released as the second quarter report for 2007, also found that 8.9 percent of families nationwide lost property to pickpockets, burglars or car thieves, while 1.8 percent suffered physical violence.

In Metro Manila, clearly the most crimeprone region in the country, 15 percent of families reported they had been victimized by pickpockets, 5.3 percent had their homes broken into by burglars, and 4 percent had a family member victimized by physical violence in the first six months of 2007.

About 1.8 percent of vehicle-owning families in Metro Manila had experienced car theft over the last six months. No car theft cases were found in the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

Luzon was generally second to Metro Manila in the number of reported victims of crimes, with 6.3 percent saying they were wictimized by pickpockets, 3.7 percent victimized by home burglars, and 2.3 percent physically hurt in common crimes.

Mindanao had the least number of pickpocketing reports (4 percent), but was second to Metro Manila in reported home burglaries (4 percent). In terms of people physically hurt in common crimes, the war-torn southern region was second to the lowest (0.7 percent).

Last victimized

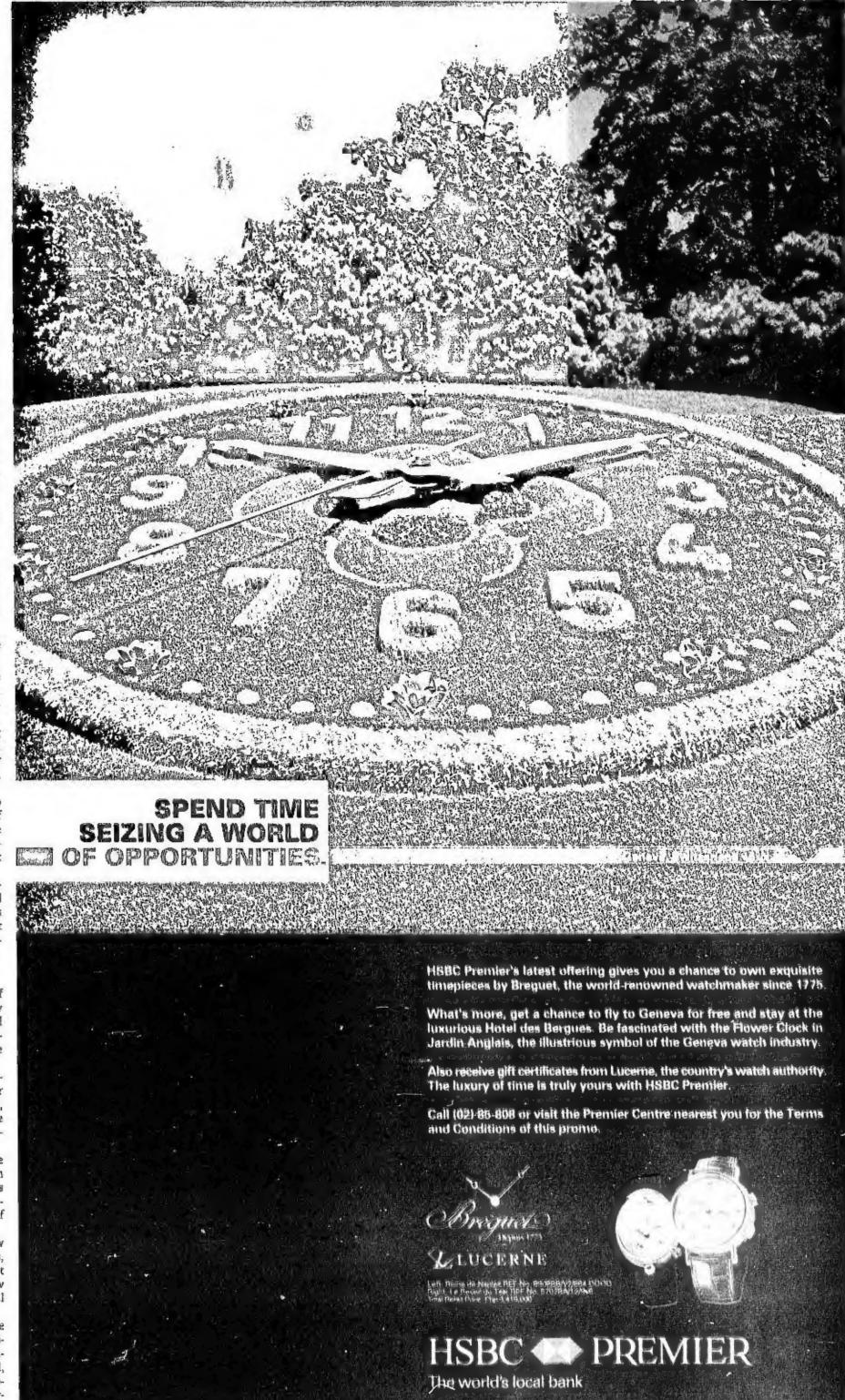
The Visayas had the lowest number of people saying they were victimized by home burglaries (1.3 percent), or physical hurt in common crimes (0.3 percent). Reports of pick-pocketing were second to the lowest at 4.3 percent.

Since 1989, SWS has been asking respondents whether any household member had been a victim of theft outside the home, a home break-in or a violent crime in the past six months. SWS added the motor vehicle theft question in 1992.

The latest survey was conducted from June 27 to 30 using face-to-face interviews with 1,200 adults allocated into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. It has a margin of error of plus-minus 3 percentage points.

Meanwhile, Calderon warned that law enforcement agencies and communities, particularly those in the provinces, must strengthen their ranks to combat a new kind of enemy—members of ideological groups who have turned to criminality.

In his speech during the consultative meeting between senior police noncommissioned officers and the Public Safety Mutual Benefit Fund Inc. (PSMBFI) board, Calderon said insurgency remained a problem and the 2010 deadline set by the government to end the rebellion was a tall order. Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research and Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luson



Manage of the Phenysian Design Measures Variation White Variation Report concerns to Sich discusses Februaries



'Nicole' rape case may yet reach UN

SC denies plea of victims' pa vs 2 appellate justices

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT HAS DISMISSED the complaint of the father of two murder victims against two Court of Appeals justices he had accused of unwarranted haste and unfair treatment in hearing the appeals of his sons' convicted killers who include former Occidental Mindoro Rep. Jose Villarosa.

According to the high court, there was no proof to back Ricardo Quintos' allegations against Justices Edgardo Cruz and Noel Tijam considering, among other things, that there has been no decision yet on the appeal of Villarosa and six others to overturn their conviction for the 1997 murders of Paul and Michael Quintos, for which they were sentenced to death.

Quintos had said in his complaint that, among other things, the appellate court denied his motion to strike out the manifestation of the Office of the Solicitor Gen-year after it reached the appellate court. eral calling for the acquittal of Villarosa and Gelito Bautista, Ruben Balanguer and Cruz's explanation.

Ituly built for Better Steep For The Two of You.

DEXTERTON

Mario Tobias. The appeals of the convicts were submitted for decision in April 2007.

Quintos said he had received reports Villarosa's wife, Rep. Amelita Villarosa, had been boasting in Mindoro that her husband would be acquitted by the Court of Appeals and that the court "has been bought."

He also filed a motion to inhibit justices of the CA's seventh division from hearing the case which was raffled to the division, but this was denied by the appellate court which also warned Quintos about making baseless accusations.

Among the justices who ruled on the motion was Tijam.

Cruz and Tijam denied they acted with undue haste and had treated Quintos unfairly.

Cruz said there was nothing wrong with the Solicitor General recommending the acquittal of the accused. He also said the case was deemed submitted for decision a

The Supreme Court gave weight to

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Crux

THE "NICOLE"-DANIEL SMITH rape case is far from over.

Although a local court last year convicted 21-year-old Smith of raping the woman the nation had come to know as Nicole, Malacanang transferred the US Marine from a city jail into American custody, citing a much-debated provision in the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

The case might yet make it to the United Nations, thanks to a recent consultation between local women's groups and the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women (VAW), Dr. Yakin Ertuk.

As a Special Rapporteur, Ertuk has the mandate to gather information on cases of physical and sexual abuse against women and to recommend measures to eliminate and remedy these abuses.

Nicole's consent

'As long as Nicole consents, any individual or group can file a report to us detailing the abuse and we can bring up the matter with the State," Ertuk said.

Based on reports she has gathered, a confidential letter of allegation or an urgent appeal to the government can be sent.

In the letter, Ertuk can ask for clarification on a VAW issue, demand adherence to applicable human rights standards and call for remedial action. All letters of al-

legation and urgent appeals are published in an annual report that is made available to the public at the beginning of the follow-

Although complainants are not identified in the report, the name of the VAW victim and the alleged per-

petrator must be disclosed, she said, as this would prevent governments from denying knowledge of the case. Both names, however, do not appear in the publicly available annual report.

Ertuk expressed optimism on the Nicole case, saying that the public support it generated impressed her.

Nicoles in history

There has always been a Nicole throughout history, women [who havel fought patriarchy but who most often got victimized and crashed because the system is strong. What is unique in the Nicole story [who was raped in November 2005) is the mobilized reaction [to it]," Ertuk said.

Although Nicole was not present in the consultation, Monina T. Geaga, secretary general of the women's organization Sarilaya and a member of Task Force Subic, was confident she would consent to having her case submitted to the Special Rapporteur.

"Palaban siya, eh (she's feisty)," said Geaga, adding that Nicole's case will serve as an impetus to call for the abrogation of the VFA."

Ertuk, who was in town over the weekend after a two-day consultation in the Asia-Pacific Region, said that her 2009 Report would open up new debate on the culture of VAW and could be "a tool of advoca-

Awareness

Sometimes, even the women themselves do not consider VAW as a violation of their rights, Ertuk said, adding that the Special Rapporteur on Torture received some 300 reports last year, compared to the 80 complaints she had received. "It is still a matter of awareness," she said of women's rights.

Ertuk, who conceded that her work basically involves "naming and shaming states that violate international conventions against VAW, said that so far, she has gotten "very positive response" from governments.

"I have been very careful about what I say and I make sure to substantiate the facts in my report, so governments usually invite me over and give me their full cooperation,"

(Reports and information on VAW can be e-mailed to urgent-action @ohchnorg, faxed to +41 22 917-9006, or mailed to Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women c/a Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations at Geneva 8-14 Ave de la Paix 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.)



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Asia democracy meet opens today

FORMER MALAYSIAN DEPUTY Minister Anwar Ibrahim leads a cast of Asian leaders attending the second biennial meeting of the World Forum for Democratization in Asia (WFDA) at the Philippine Plaza Sofitel Hotel starting today.

The three-day meeting will tackle the political transition in Asia
and forge a consensus on how civil
society groups, governments and
citizens of various Asian countries
could collaborate to promote
democratic processes, defend human rights and assure just and equitable economic growth.

Ibrahim will keynote the conference tomorrow at 2 p.m. and discuss "Prospects and Problems for Asian Democracy."

Former Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid will also have a video presentation this morning while former Cambodian Finance Minister Sam Rainsy will participate in the high-level meeting of Asian democrats and civil society figures.

Secretary Jesus Dureza, presidential adviser on the peace process, will welcome the delegates at 9 a.m. today along with Alexander Padilia, chair of the Initiatives for International Dialogue (IID), which organized the WFDA meet.

Dr. Deng-ker Lee, adviser of the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, which sponsored the first meeting of WFDA two years ago, will be on hand to meet the participants.

Former President Fidel Ramos will deliver the keynote address at 10:30 a.m. and discuss the significance of the Philippine experience for democracy in Asia.

Padilla will moderate the high-level forum, with Pernando Lasam de Araujo, president of the national parliament of Timor Leste, leading the panel members. Dr. Carolina Hernandez, chair of the Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) of the Philippines; Ms Irene Fernandez, director of Tenangita of Malaysia, Rainsy, and Dr. Young-hee Shim, corepresentative of Women Making Peace of South Korea as members.

Debbie Stothard, coordinator of the Alternative Asean Network on Burma (ALTSEAN Burma) will moderate Plenary Session 1 of the meeting, with Dr. Vo Van Ai of Vietnam, Mr. Ryita Jonen of World Movement for Democracy of Japan, Ms Khin Ohmar of the Asia-Pacific Peoples Partnership for Burma and Dr. Ash Roy of the Institute of Social Sciences of India as members.

Three working groups will hear country reports on democratization of closed societies, assisting countries in transition and assisting democratic consolidation in the afternoon.

Finance usec Sevilla quits

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE UNDERSECRETARY JOHN SEVILla, in charge of the government's privatization program under the Department of Finance, admitted yesterday that he has tendered his irrevocable resignation.

"I am resigning for a personal reason. My father is very sick," Sevilla told reporters following yesterday's press conference on the government's fiscal performance for August.

Sevilla only worked for the DOF for about a year, taking on the finance post last year from former Finance Undersecretary for Privatization, Jay Singson.

Singson, son of former Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson, decided to go back to the private sector.

Sevilla's resignation came at the height of the government's efforts to push forward its privatization program to offset the expected shortfall in tax collection for the year. The government expects the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the biggest revenue carner among government agencies, to post a shortfall of P24 billion under a best-case scenario.

On track

But DOF earlier said that the government was on track in raising P70 billion in revenues from privatization this year, much higher than the earlier target of only P25 billion. The difference would more than offset the expected shortfall in tax collection, the DOF said.

There were rumors that Sevilla was having policy differences with Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza, in charge of legal matters.

Sevilla denied this, insisting that he was resigning to look after his ailing father.

Prior to his stint at the Department of Finance, Sevilla was engaged in the investment banking sector. The DOF has yet to name his replacement.

In January to August, the DOF was able to achieve the privatization of its 46-percent stake in the Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. (PTIC) and raised P25 billion from the deal. The government likewise sold in July, 20 percent of its shares in the Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) for about P17 billion.



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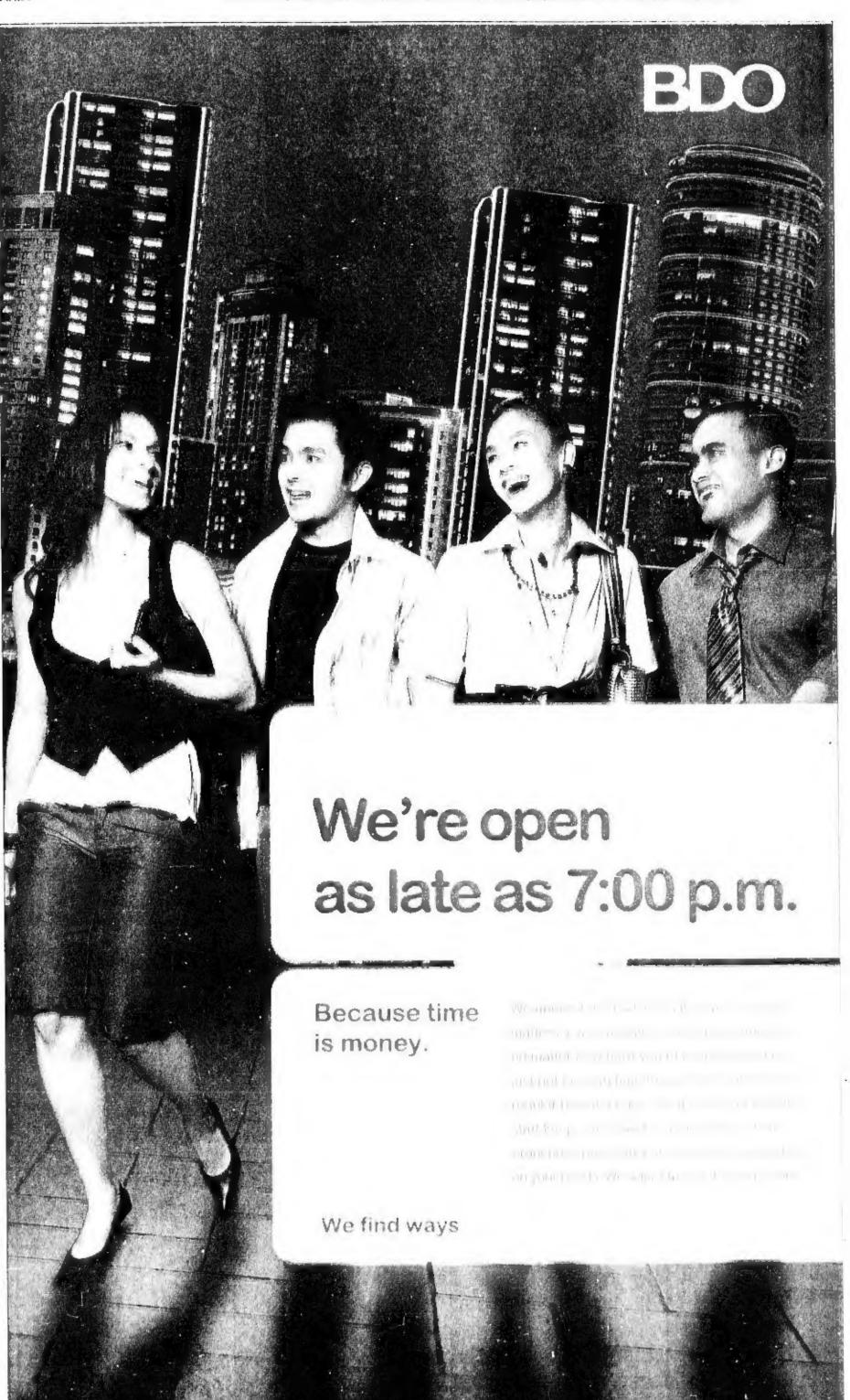
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NOTICE TO ALL BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL **ESTABLISHMENTS IN QUEZON CITY**

The Quezon City Government, thru the City Treasurer's Office, by virtue of CITY ORDINANCE NO. SP-1663, S. 2006, entitled: "ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE APPREHENSION OF BUSINESS OWNERS AND/OR OPERATORS IN QUEZON CITY NOT ISSUING RECEIPTS AND/OR SALES INVOICE", enacted in support of the City's business tax collection effort and in order to promote general welfare, will conduct monitoring/inspection of all business/commercial establishments within the City's territorial jurisdiction to ensure strict compliance with the above-stated Ordinance.

All persons, corporations or entities doing business in Quezon City are STRICTLY REQUIRED to issue RECEIPTS or SALES INVOICES in all their sales or commercial transactions involving the amount of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (Php 100.00) or more. Violators shall face the penalty of fine in the amount of FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (Php 4,000. 00) and/or IMPRISONMENT OF ONE (1) MONTH for the FIRST OFFENSE; FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 5,000.00) and/or IMPRISONMENT OF TWO (2) MONTHS for the SECOND OFFENSE; and REVOCATION OF PERMIT and/or CLOSURE OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENT and/or IMPRISONMENT OF THREE (3) MONTHS for the THIRD AND SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE, at the discretion of the Court.

The public is requested to report any business/commercial establishment in Quezon City violating the said Ordinance to the OFFICE OF THE CITY TREASURER at the Ground Floor, Treasury Bldg., City Hall, Quezon City / Tel. No. 9288336.

VICTOR B. ENDRIGA, Ph.D.

No DENR 'midnight deal,' says former usec

SECRETARY ANGELO T. REYES DID NOT Atienza to say he was withholding payment sign a "midnight deal" to pay US-based of the \$1.3 million pending an investigation. Emissions Technology Inc. (ETI) \$1.3 million in back fees for an air-monitoring project just before he was transferred from the environment to the energy department.

This was the assertion of former Environment Undersecretary Armi Borje to belie the impression left by Reyes' successor at DENR, Secretary Lito Atienza, that a letter of understanding (LOU) signed by Reyes with ETI last July 31 made the payment a done deal.

"Secretary Reyes considers it the prerogative of Energy Secretary Lito Atienza to review the ETI project or any project of his department for that matter," said Borje yesterday in a statement.

Borje said the issue was an "old one" which DENR Director Ely Ouano had addressed in a press release on Aug. 7 when Reyes was already at the Department of Energy.

In the news release, Quano had said: There is nothing definite about the payment. It depends upon a showing that the ETI-Imach contractors have complied fully with their contractual obligations."

"The DENR will not make payments until such requirements and conditions have been fulfilled in accordance with the contract," Ouano said.

Since no payment to ETI was forthcoming, Borje said there was hardly any need for the \$1.3 million, the statement said.

Atienza is the former Manila mayor. He was named by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the environment department on Aug. 1 replacing Reyes who was appointed to Energy.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the contract to put up and maintain 10 air quality monitoring stations in and around Metro Manila was signed five years ago by then Energy Secretary Heherson Al-

The ADB had recommended payment of the back fees to ETI after field studies showed the monitoring stations met international safety standards, including those of the United States Environment Protection Agency, according to the DENR in another statement yesterday.

The ADB, which funded the project, retained the services of Gordon Jones of Usepa from Sept. 25 to Oct. 1, 2005, to examine the monitoring stations and the data they had generated, the statement said.

Jones submitted a report attesting to the "fitness and validity" of the monitoring stations, which was approved by Usepa director Martin Dieu, according to the DENR.

The LOU stipulated that ETI must comply with all the requirements and conditions of the contract if it hoped to get paid

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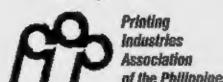
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Japanese barred for hurting Pinay on the plane

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A BLACKLIST ORDER HAS BEEN ISSUED against a 64-year-old Japanese tourist who was denied entry from the country because he hurt his Filipino girlfriend during their flight to Manila last week.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan yesterday issued an order placing Takanori Wada on the Bureau of Immigration's (BI) blacklist of undesirable aliens.

Libanan said he issued the order upon the recommendation of immigration officers at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Na-1a) The BI officers had barred the Japanese national from entering Manila on Sept. 12 and sent him back to Japan instead.

"By publicly displaying his disrespect for women, he exhibited an abhorrent and distasteful attitude that made him undeserving of our country's hospitality and the privilege to stay in the Philippines," Libanan said in a statement.

He stressed that as the country's gatekeeper, the BI and its officers have the discretion to demy entry to any foreigner deemed undestrable.

According to Clodualdo Penera, head of the BI's migration compliance and monitoring group (MCMG) at the Naia, Wada was immediately issued an exclusion order upon his arrival at the airport last Sept. 12.

Penera said immigration officers received a "flight disturbance complaint report" on Wada from a passenger named Martin Tomas.

Tomas recounted to BI officers that he had tried to stop Wada from hurning his female companion, identified as Mariel Yamamoto, but the Japanese allegedly snapped at him and told him to mind his own business.

Tomas' report was corroborated by other passengers who were on the same flight, prompting immigration officers to take action against Wade.

Immgration officer and MCMG member Benito Se, in his report to Libanan on the incident, said. "Conclusively, Wada has no respect for women and for other people that made him undestrable."

Prominent Quezon residents to be feted

PROMINENT SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF Quezon province, including Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, now the acting justice secretary, and Doctors Manny and Pie Calayan will be honored for their achievements in their respective fields at the 84th anniversary celebration of the Quezon (Tayabas) Association (QTA).

The celebration is scheduled on Sept. 22 at the Sofitel Westin Philippine Plaza on Roxas Boulevard, Manda

Mau Marcelo, the first "Philippine Idol" winner, and Reymond Sajor, adjudged grand champion senior vocalist of the world at the 11th World Championships of Performing Arts, will likewise be recognized.

The QTA, which was founded by the late President Manuel Luis Quezon, is known for its efforts to assist the less fortunate in the province through medical missions, scholarship grants and Christmas gift giving.

Its presidents, fashion designer Ramil Estrope and microfinancing and property developer Cristina Vilar, are in charge of this year's anniversary ball.

THE DAILY GOSPEL



Wednesday, September 19, 2007 24th Week in Ordinary Time Januarius

Gospel.

1 Tim 3:1-13 Lake 7:31-35

Jesus said, "What comparison can I use for this people? What are they like? They are like children sitting in the marketplace, about whom their companions complain: 'We piped you a tune and you wouldn't dance; we sang funeral songs and you wouldn't cry."

'Remember John, he didn't eat bread or drink wine, and you said. He has an evil spirit.' Next came the Son of Man, enting and drinking, and you say. 'Look, a glutten for food and wine, a friend of tax collectors and sunners.' But the children of Wisdom always recognize her work."

Commentary Who do we worship, follow and put our faith in—the one born in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, worshipped by all of heaven, preached to the nations, now in glory, and believed in throughout the world? Jesus questions the people of his day (and ours) on what we are like-peevish children squatting in public and calling out to their playmates, whining and complaining. Not a pretty picture. They neither responded to John the Baptist's call to repentance or to the Son of Man's call to sinners in mercy. They found something wrong with both of them, and they did nothing. And what about us-have we listened to John's call to change so that we can see who is coming? Have we listened to Jesus' summons to the cross and reconcutation among us?

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Inquirer reaches out to Bicol vendors

51, of Barangay Sta. Cruz has been selling newspapers for 35 years but this is the first time he was given special attention.

"Nakapacheckup na mayong bayad (I was able to get a medical checkup without paying)," he said.

Antonio was referring to the medical mission held here on Sept. 5 at the Patima Chapel by the Philippine Daily Inquirer and partners for newsboys and newspaper vendors—the front line of the print industry.

Their immediate families also got a free checkup.

Bong Hernandez, 35, married with two lods, said he was glad a newspaper outfit had found time to give them this much attention.

Hernandez said the free medical services meant a lot because they usually cannot afford to see

He said he had been working as a newsboy for the past three years, earning an average of P50 a day-which was enough for him and his family to survive and live

Aimed at building a productive partnership and interaction with partner dealers and civic groups, the medical mission, sponsored by the browner and Unilab, served 211 mdividuals who availed of free medical checkup and free medicines.

Ramon S. Sia, a newspaper dealer here, said this was the first ever medical mission for newsboys and newspaper vendors.

Sia coordinated with Fr. William Tan of Our Lady of Patima Chapel, the Filipino-Chinese Catholic Youth, Our Lady of Fatima Association, Catholic Women's League and a group of Christian businessmen and professionals. Juan Escandor



MEDICAL MISSION for newsboys and their families held recently in Naga City and sponsored



What did GMA know and when did she know it?

From page Al

mitted an unsolicited bid to undertake the NBN project. AHI lost the contract to ZTE.

"Why don't you just copy Joey's proposal-no guarantee, no debt, no subsidy and no risk to the govemment?" the businessman said, quoting his father on what Ms Arroyo had told Abalos.

Intimate knowledge

Sen. Panfilo Lacson said this was proof that Ms Arroyo had intimate knowledge of the details of the project.

"He (De Venecia) initially declared the President had nothing to do with the contract. But finally, in the end, he admitted that she was knowledgeable about the deal every step of the way." Lacson said.

.He said that what was puzzhing was that in spite of advising Abalos to follow De Venecia's proposal, there had been a lot of

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Sip-flopping in the government anomalous contract position on the NBN contract.

Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board meeting she wanted no subsidy no loan, just BOT. But when [Planning] Secretary [Romulo] Nen signed it, she went to Hainan to witness its signing (on April 21) for face value. It was clear that the ZTE contract had ber imprimatur," Lacson said.

Lacson said that based on De-Venecia's account, Ms Arroyo knew about the project and the people who were lobbying for it even before she met with the Neda board in November 2006 to key down the ground rules for the NBN.

'Mister ni ma'am'

At the hearing, Sen. Jinggoy Estrade [referred to the "mystery man" as the "mister no ma'am"] cited several things that showed the President's fingerprints were all over the knew about the ZTE project.

 All key individuals linked "It was clear in the National to the contract belonged to the President's inner circle.

 Ms Arroyo went to China to witness officials of ZTE and the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) sign the agreement despite the fact that her husband was critically ill at that time.

 She has refused to junk the contract despite the loud criticisms against the project.

 Ms Arroyo did not investigate how the contract was lost in a hotel in China hours after it was signed.

 She has barred her officials from discussing the project.

 Ms Arroyo asked her husband to leave the country.

Other instances

Lacson noted other instances that suggested that Ms Arroyo

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"First, in November 2006, during a meeting on the Cybercoridor at a Neda board meeting, it was clear in the discussion that the President gave specific guidelines," Lacson said.

"She asked "Do we need to have a government broadband," the senator said, quoting minutes of the Neda board meeting.

"Neri said basically, ma'am, we will need a backbone but who will provide this is the issue-but there is the private sector. Yes, a backbone ma'am. It can be done through BOT.

The President said: That's why you have to make sure it's BOT. That's why I ask 'where is the money coming from?

"Neri said: What we need to do, ma'am, is to structure it in a way that there is no government subsidy, but the government will become just a main customer for this backbone," Lacson quoted from the minutes.

"But not take or pay," the Pres- the policy on the NBN project. ident said, according to Lacson.

Like thief in night

After all the guidelines, Ms Arroyo proceeded to Hainan, China, and witnessed the signmg of the deal

'So all these circumstances, plus what was already mentioned by Senator Estrada, point only to one thing: The President, your President, knew all along that there was this project, that Abalos was pushing ZTE to bag the project, and so forth and so on," Lacson said, addressing De Venecia.

Change of policy

De Venecia said he agreed with Lacson's observation. "I'm quite surprised with the change of the policy," he said.

Venecia wondered whether the Neda or the different Cabinet members convinced the President to change "Or is n the other way around?

She convinced Neda to sign the approval of the NBN," Lacson said.

After the nearing, Sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, chair of the blue ribbon committee, told the In-OURER that there were a lot of circumstances that pointed to the President knowing more than it appeared.

What's clear, what's mystery

How far was she involved in the bribery is a mystery. But what is clear is that while the project is overpriced by \$130 million, why is she still pushing for it? Otherwise, she should just let her people explain here," Cayetano said.

He said the blue ribbon committee's duty was not to link the President to the deal

"We just want it to establish and reach a logical conclusion. Too early to say whether she knew about the bribes," Cayetano said.

GMA to Mendoza: Take case to SC, where there's no politics

From page Al

Ms Arroya's order would, in effect, spare her administration from what could be a potentialby divisive showdown with the Senate, which has opened an investigation into allegations

telecommunications giant ZTE Corp. was marked by massive payoffs.

Ms Arroyo announced her directive to Mendoza when she spoke yesterday at the start of the board meeting of the Na-

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that the deal with the Chinese tional Economic and Development Authori- stal a sore loser," Mendoza said ty (Neda) while the Senate inquiry was in full swing

> "I am directing Secretary Mendoza to appear and explain before the Supreme Court the case of the National Broadband Network," she said

> She said her administration could present evidence before the high tribunal, where there would be no politicking.

> The high court recently issued a temporary restraining order on the deal following a petition by Hoilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico

> questioning its legality. Ms Arroyo made no mention of the Senate blue ribbon committee, which has summoned executive officials led by Mendoza, who snubbed the inquiry claiming the case was already in the

courts

Mendoza: A melodrama

"There is no politics and evidence is the basis of the processes in the court," Ms Arroyo said, speaking in Filipino "It is in court that the issue of whether the deal is in accord with the law and the welfare of the people will be judged cor-

Ms Arroyo said the executive branch was also prepared to help in the probe of the Ombudsman, where graft cases against some officials have been filed.

Mendoza, for his part, said he was ready to face the Supreme Court on the NBN deal and maintained that businessman Jose "Joey" de Venecia III was only criticizing the project because he did not

"I have read the affidavit of Joey de Venecia III and heard his testimony before the Senate today. Neither changed my view that, despite his well-rehearsed attempt at melodrama at the Senate, he is

Politicized

Mendoza said the issue had been highly politicized and that Ms Arroyo was right when she directed him during a Cabinet meeting yesterday to prioritize the court case rather than explain to the Senate

He also said that when granted a *leave of court" to speak out on the NBN issue outside the high fribunal's hearings, he would demonstrate that the project "went through the legal processes, is aboveboard and is for the benefit of the Filipino people."

In her remarks to the Neda board, Ms Arroyo stressed that opposing views and positions were natural in a democracy.

According to justice

"What is important is that there are courts and legal processes that can resolve any disagreement in a peaceful manner, according to justice and the evidence, without politics," Ms Arroyo said.

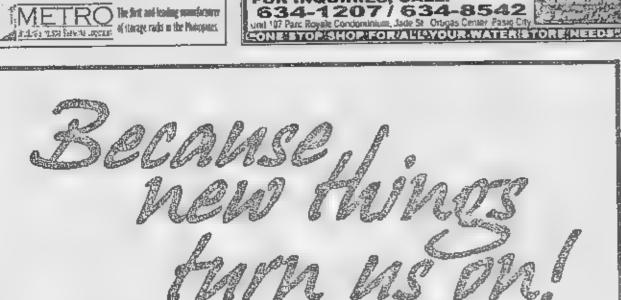
She said she convened the Neda board to approve and speed up the completion of priority projects, including expressways and ratiroads.

Ms Arroyo said the country needed to strengthen the rule of law and ensure political stability in its march to progress

This is what every investor is looking for," she said

She urged Congress to promptly concur with Proclamation No. 1377 that she issued granting general amnesty to communist rebels

"We need to ... help local government strengthen peace in the provinces under the amnesty (proclamation)," she stressed, even as she ordered the Armed Forces to defend the public from the "death and destruction" wrought by enemies of the state.



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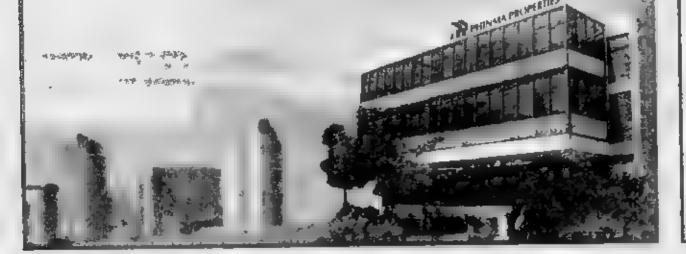
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The Power Sector Assets and Liebbius Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget Intends to apply the total sum of EIGHT MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED PEROS ONLY (Papel 450.800 00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Procurement of Disabley and Motebook Computers, printers and Projectors

Schedule	Description	Clubnitty	Unit of Mossure	Approved Sudget for the Contract
	Desktop Computer	70	Unit	Php8 750,000,00
'	Notebook Computer	15	Jail	
	Network Colour Leser	3	Unit	Php1,242,800 00
1(Network Laser Printer	a	Unit	P1(0)1,242,500 00
	Portable Proter	4	Unit	
	LCD Projector with Document Reader	-1	Joil	Php208,000-00
40	LCD Projector (High-End)	1	Unit	
<u>īv</u> *	Notebook Computer (High End)	2	Unit	Php190 000 00
**	TOTAL			Php8,450,800.00
			S-d	

Ends received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening The Power Sector Assets and Liabitions Management Corporation now envise Bids from eligible Biddens for the Procurement of Desklop and Notebook Computers, printers and Projectors for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Scider is contained in Section R of the Bidding Documents. ITB

Budding will be conducted through open competitive bidding propridures using non-discretionary passified criteria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R A 9184, and is restricted to February calculations proprietions with all least sucty percent (80%) interest or oxistanding capital stock belonging to oxizens of the Prespictors and to extension or organizations of a country the laws or capital stock belonging to oxizens of the Prespictors and to extension or organizations of a country the laws or productions of which creat senter militial or country to Educate or organizations of the Prespictors. capital stock belonging to citizens of the Phappines, and to citizens or organizators of a country the laws or regulations of which grant senser rights or privileges to Februar citizens pursuant to RA 5183. Only Bids from Sidders who pass the eligibidy check will be opered. The process for the eligibidy check is discorbed in Season II of the Bidderig Documents, ITS. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCS) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall that be awarded to the Cowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRI) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the dems indicated in the Bidding Documents.

Interested Bioders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM, Monday

A complete set of Bloding Documents may be purchased by interested Bloders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of SIX THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php5.000.00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Sidder or his authorized representative

The Power Sector Assets and stabletes Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10 00 AM et the 6º Floor, Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayala Avenue.

Bids and eligibility requirements exist be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007, 10:00 AM AS Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashed's check interocable letter of credit into ABC). Bark guarantee (1 Y/W of ABC) ar Surety Bond (2 Y/W of the ABC). Lete Bids shall not be accompanied. not be accepted. Bid opening whell be on 98 October 2007 at 10:15 AM at the 6" Boar Bankmer Busking, 6756 Ayele Avenue

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bioders' representatives who choose to atlend The Power Sector Assets and Liabettes Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid. to arrive the bedding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Skiders Power Sector Assets and Liabitees Management Corporation HELENA C. TOLENTINO

7th Floor Benkmer Building, 9756 Ayata Avenue, Makali City Tet (02)8405046 Fax (02)8830699 B-roof, hotolenbno@psalm.gov.ph

POI Supt. 19, 2017)

(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO BAC Chairperson

PDIC president Mike Osmeña dies; 57

Insurance Corp. president Michael "Mike" Abiaza Osmeña passed away on Monday after a bnef bout with cancer.

The board of directors, management and staff of the PDIC announced the death took over the helm of peration on July 4 last year.

Osmeña is survived by his wife, Theresa Mapua Osmeña and three sons, Ramon, Anton and Stefan.

His remains are in Kamagong Room, Manua Memorial Puneraria Paz in Sucat, Parañague. ment shall be on Sept. 22 after the 9 a.m. funerat mass at the St. James the Great Church in Ayala Alabang

"His term as PDIC president was marked by improvement in the corporation's service delivery, organizational efficiency, financial strength and employee welfare. He strongly supported advocacy programs in enhancing financial literacy education and savings discipline," the PDIC management and staff said in a statement yesterday.

He was also a govemment nominee to the Boards of the Philippine Bank Communications and

30 HongKong

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the Philippine National Bank. During his term, the PDIC played a critcal role in the government's exit from the PNB after a successful rehabilitation marked by the sale of govern-

ment's shares via pub-

lic offering Prior to his stint in of Osmeña, 57, who the PDIC, Osmeña was a veteran of 30 the state-owned cor- years and held various management positions in corporate finance, credit management and consumer banking.

He was a senior of ficer and sales director of ABN Amro responsible in building the consumer busiand likewise

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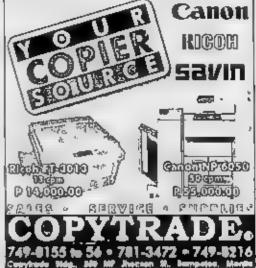
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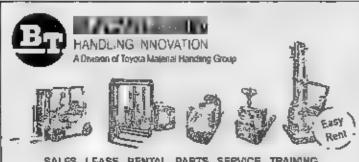
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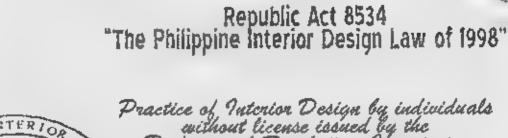
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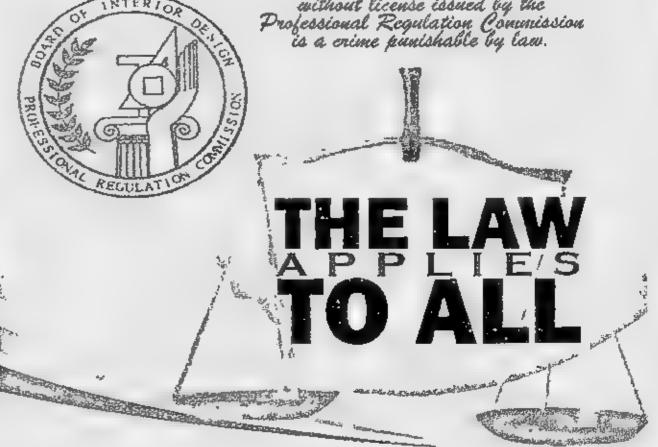
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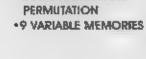
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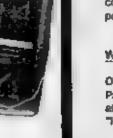




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Who can practice interior Design?

Only Individuals who hold Interior Design License Issued by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) are legally allowed to practice interior design and use the late of "Interior Designer."

What is PIID to PRC?

The Philippine Institute of Inteiror Designers (PIID) is the PRO accredited protessional organization that aims to protect the interest of interior Designers, that is responsible for the preparation of the policies and standard of enterior design practice as embodied by the law (RA 6534) that uplets the interior design practice into a profession. It is then tasked, to monitor the strict implementation of the law.

Thus, we would like to call the attention of all practicing interior designers to contact the PIID Secretariat for information regarding the acquisition of license from the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC).

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Mike A is mystery man; JDV son tags

Amsterdam Holdings Inc., which lost the contract for the NBN project to ZTE

De Venecia also recounted how Abalos, in a separate meeting with officials of China's ZTE Corp., which he attended, allegedly demanded advance commissions and claimed Ms Arroyo and his father, Speaker Jose de Venecia, were expecting the money.

The younger De Venecia said he was shocked by Abalos' attempt to drag the names of Ms Arroyo and of his father, and he pulled Abalos aside "to warn him against the gratuitous namedropping." But when the meeting resumed, he said Abalos continued with his demands.

Heavy heart

In his opening statement, De Venecia said, "It is with a heavy heart that I cannot deny that it was First Gentleman Mike Arroyo at the reconciliatory meeting."

"I do, however, want to make clear that it was his presence alone that I observed and I have no other indication of his participation in the NBN project or the deal with ZTE," he said

The Senate and House of Representatives are investigating the ZTE contract amid calls that it be rescinded because it was allegedly overpriced by \$130 million and attended by corruption. Two economists claimed that the NBN project was unnecessary because the private sector already had two broadband net-

Last week, the Supreme Court ordered a temporary stop to the NBN contract, which was signed in April in Boao, China, by Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong in ceremonies witnessed by President Arroyo.

Reconciliatory meeting

The young De Venecia was referring to the "reconciliatory meeting" in a function room of Wack Wack, where De Venecia said. Arroyo tried to bully him to get him to withdraw AHI's unsolicited proposal for the NBN project.

"Smindak niya po ako (He threatened me)," he said in reply to Sen. Francis Pangilinan's question.

Pangilinan said the act of the President's husband, who left the country for Hong Kong on the eve of the Senate inquiry, was more like a "pangduduro (browbeating)."

The "reconciliation" meeting was called by Mendoza to patch up differences between De Venecia and Abalos, who allegedly brokered the ZTE deal in exchange for a luckback.

Golf buddies

"? believe Abalos and the First Gentleman and Mendoza are very close friends. They play a lot of golf. They're buddies," he said.

Other persons at the meeting, according to De Venecia, were Abalos' chief of staff Jimmy Paz, Abakos security staffer Quirino de la Torre, Ruben Reyes and Leo San Miguel. (De Venecia apologized to Edgar Dula Torres, a rettred police official,



REENACTMENT, De Venecia used his fellow resource person, iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, at the Senate probe to demonstrate hi Mike Arroyo tried to "bully" him to withdraw his own bid for the government's broadband project.

tually referring to De la Torre)

Heavier person

"My impression is that Chairman Abalos had asked him (Arroyo) to convince whom he had mistakenly identified as be- me to withdraw [my bid] It's like in a forgive you for your sins."

ing part of Abalos' group when he was ac- fight where you will ask a heavier person to back you up," De Venecia said.

De Venecia said Mendoza spoke first: Joey (De Venecia), the chairman is here. The First Gentleman is here."

Abalos supposedly told him. Soey, I

(Abalos was apparently referring t Venecia's claim that the Comelec i had gotten mad at him for telling /1 ficials that he [Abalos] wanted at vance commission.)

De Venecia said he did not reply asked instead if Abalos' proposal for

Senators fear 'dynamic obsolescence'

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three committee chairs expressed the view that the government could end up with an antiquated communication network before it had fully paid the 20 year loan with the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp.

Ramon Sales, former chair of the Commission on Information and Communication Technology (CICT), justified the NBN contract, citing the government's increasing communication expenses.

"What I can't accept is that the signed last May.

ment's NBN project to it buying its own airline because it was spending a lot on air travel

"It's like, we are spending so much on air travel, let's buy our own airplanes. We are spending so much on helicopters to go to far-flung barangays, let's build a road all the way to these areas, even if in fact a road is not the most efficient, effective use of government money" said

No assurance

telecoms cost of the government sen. Alan Peter Cayetano, Senate keeps going up," said Sales who re- blue ribbon committee chair, said his concern was that if the government Sen. Manuel Roxas II, chair of the entered into a 20-year NBN deal, "we Senate committee on trade and might get stuck with obsolete technol-

commerce, likened the govern- ogy" He cited the "Telepono sa Baran- billion for the same period. gay" project that was eventually shelved with the advent of cellular phone technology.

Biazon, chair of the defense committee, said there was no assurance that the government could continue to use the NBN infrastructure to be put up by ZTE for the next 20 years. "If we invest here, how long can

we use the system before it becomes obsolete?" he asked

Sales said the answer depended on the situation.

He cited potential savings of about P30.4 billion in the next 20 years under the contract with ZTE Corp., while rival Amsterdam Holdings Inc.'s proposal offered savings of around P17

But Sales later told reporters the CICT could not compare the two proposals and the potential savings since the two firms had used different approaches to arrive at their figures.

Under questioning, Sales admitted the extrapolated savings were based on the Department of Transportation and Communications' assumption that the government would be spending P4 billion an-

nually for communications, or cause we have hig. about P80 billion in the next 20 one category it does years. He admitted he had not read the DOTC's "supply contract" with ZTE Corp.

Figures bloated

But Roxas said the DOTC's figare was bloated since the proposed 2008 national budget only allocated P2.7 billion for communication expenses.

"It is very clear that just be- munications like of

government should own backbone Se government has nev an ability to properly maintain and keep, highly technological cal projects of this

He added that the would still have to sp

Senate warns Mike A: Snubbing in

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE SENATE HAS WARNED the husband of President Macapagal-Arroyo against snubbing its inquiry into the \$329-million contract won by China's ZTE Corp. for the national broadband network project

Juan Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's refusal to answer the charges made by businessman Jose de Venecia III would be taken to mean he was guilty, said Sen. Alan Cayetano, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee which leads the Senate

Mr Arroyo left for Hong Kong on then the others men Sept. 17, the eve of the opening of the Senate hearings into the ZTB "There's damning testimony

against them," Cayetano said.

"Untike before when they refused to appear (because) they want to talk less to make less mistakes, right now if they don't appear what do you think would be the conclusion of the people?" he the guest could be or

But Cayetano, who had crossed swords with Arroyo in the 13th Congress, said the Senate might issue an "invitation" first to Arroyo and

Venecia in his testinio

Invitation/subpoe The original plan

blue ribbon communthe committees on tr merce and on defense a subpoena.

An invited guest t Senate subpoena woi ed by the Senate to to tend the hearing

Cayetano said the discuss whether to is na with the other ch

Doc, lawyer say FG trip set long befo

Dr. Rommel Cariño told the Inouner that the new scandal involving Arroyo would have been stressful to him since he had just recovered from life-threatening surgery.

But he should have been in the country when Jose 'Joey" de Venecia III testified at the Senate, "to avoid suspicion that he is hiding," Cariño said, adding that Arroyo could let his lawyers handle the matter anyway.

"Kasi pag wala siya, lagi siyang pinag-uusapan (Because when he's away, people always talk about him)," the doctor said

He conceded that Arroyo's dewas bad timing: "Nakakaawa naman siya, kasi pagalis niya, tiempo."

Cariño, a senior heart surgeon with the Philippine Heart Center, performed the dangerous 10-hour aneurysmectomy on President Macapagal-Arroyo's husband after he was diagnosed with a dissecting aortic aneurysm (a condition in which a tear develops in the biggest blood vessel in the body)

Doctors said the survival rate among those afflicted was only 5

Arroyo's survival led hum to call Cariño his "miracle surgeon "

Was it the stress?

The surgery was conducted on April 9, a few weeks after the meeting in which Arroyo supposedly threatened De Venecia and rold him to "back off" the National Broadband Network (NBN) project cornered by China's ZTE Corp.

Asked if the stress of the NBN meetings in March could have aggravated Arroyo's heart condition, leading to the emergency surgery, Cariño merely laughed.

He said his patient's trip to Burope had been planned for some

Cariño said Arroyo sought his permission two Tuesdays ago to go on a two-week trip to Europe: "He really wanted to go abroad. He said he will go to Europe with his friends. "Ywo weeks lang daw siya doon."

The doctor said he gave the go-signal because his patient was already fit to resume "normal ac-

"He already plays golf-I think, at least twice a week," the doctor

2nd trip overseas

Cariño said Arroyo did not specify his ulumate destination in Europe. But according to sources speaking off the record, Arroyo was to fly to Munich in Germany from Hong Kong.

It is Arroyo's second trip abroad, after the trip with the President to Sydney, Australia, for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit on Sept. 6-10. (He did not join the activities lined up for the spouses of the Apec leaders during the summit, however.)

Cariño said the only advice he gave his patient was to lie flat on his back during the long-haul flight to Europe. He said he was assured that the airline could meet this requirement.

"He should be lying flat; other-

wise he will have he doctor said

Camño saw no prof royo attending the Se if he is called upon long as he can conpressure" and he doe voked ("Huwag lang

Let him be

Jesus Santos, Anand spokesperson a chent be spared furt sy and allowed to livi

"I appeal to detra government to spare deman from their ru black propaganda," a statement. "The c wants now is to help the sick in his own I live a life in peace."

According to Santi dent's husband "does never, interfere in any transaction "

Asked on the phor left on the eve of the quiry into the NBN said it had nothing t ports that he would

by De Venecia. Santos said this case of "black propa peddled by the mean royo had been advise tor to take a vacation

"Wag naman gалиг mga media, bluck pr naman yan. Wag guny mama eh sinabihun nun pa matapos ang пуа, па тадракизуон

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MA husband

operation" between ZTE and his own firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., was still on.

Before Abalos could reply, Arroyo cut De Venecia off and told him to "back off"

"Back off is, iwanan mo na itong proyekto (leave this project). Huwag na akong samah dahil may ibang kasah diyan (I shouldn't join the project because someone else was already involved)," De Venecia told the senators.

After being told to back off, De Venecia said he tried to explain to Arroyo the advantages of AHI's proposal.

"But he (Arroyo) refused to listen. He went to the other side of the room. He just stood up and left," the businessman said.

"I ended up talking to nobody," De Vene-

Waiter

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada said one of the waiters at Wack Wack witnessed the meeting. De Venecia, however, could not recall the exact date but that it was held about middle of last March.

When questioned, De Venecia recalled that both Arroyo and Mendoza were in white barong Tagalog while Abalos came in a "very nice" polo barong with the Comelec

De Venecia said earlier in March that he came across Mendoza at his father's home.

"You know Joey, your proposal is difficult because the old man [Abalos] is mad at you," he quoted Mendoza as telling him.

De Venecia told the Senate inquiry that the ZTE contract was overpriced by at least \$130 million.

He said he was offered \$10 million to join the Chinese firm in the deal while on a

expense in and fax transmissions even if the ot mean the ZTE Corp. laid down the NBN inlow build its frastructure Sales further justified the gover exhibited

ernment's NBN project, saying private service providers could not service the farthest barangay ofand techni- fice

But he also admitted the ZTE project would only cover 40-45 percent government of government offices, and he was end for com- not sure if government financial inarseas, calls sututions would also be covered.

quiry means guilt

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noned by De quiry—Sen, Manuel Roxas II of the trade and commerce committee and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon of the defense committee.

Also to be invited are the ale; along with leged associates of Benjamin ide and com- Abalos Sr., chair of the Commiswas to issue sion on Elections, namely, his chief of staff Jimmy Paz, a certain tho ignores a Leo San Miguel, a certain Ruben d mean that Reyes and retired police general dered arrest- Quirino de la Torre

"Whether it's an invitation or a subpoena, what we're after is that senztors will he appears," said Cayetano, ue a subpoe- adding that under court rules, itts in the in- flight is an indication of guilt

Santos said Arroyo "left for

He said the trip had been planned

cause his doctors wanted him to

Santos declined to comment on De

"We're checking on that right now.

In the statement, Santos said alle-

He said Arroyo had planned the

"Besides, the First Gentleman

gations that his client had left the

country for Hong Kong to avoid fac-

gusting malicious insinuations."

him to 'back off' from the NBN deal.

have "a clean bill of health."

tion, and not for anything else."

re Senate probe

ik pain," the labas ng bansa."

plem with Ar- abroad Monday evening on a nate hearing, long-planned and delayed vacato do so, "as rol his blood not get pro- "a long time ago, not because there's lyang maga- an inquiry in the Senate," but be-

oyo's lawyer No comment sked that his er controver- Venecia's claim that Arroyo had told quietly.

ctors of the he First Gen- We're coordinating with the Senate. nor mills and First, we have to get a transcript of antos said in the inquiry if Joey really said that at ally thing he the bearing. We have to react from the poor and there ... but ... we will beg off in the ttle way and meantime," the lawyer said.

os, the Presinot, and will government ing the Senate inquiry were "dis-

e why Arroyo e Senate in- vacation even before his heart deal; Santos surgery. o do with rebe implicated has not been even mentioned at

and that Ard by his doc- sue is totally unfair," Santos said.

abroad Kayo talaga royo was "fit to travel" and had opaganda na an, kasi yung na ng doktor, heart surgery

any time in the ZTE controversy. was another. Neither has he been invited to the ganda" being Senate inquiry. So to even instruate that he is trying to avoid the is-

been given the "green light" by his He also pointed out that Arroyo had accompanied the President to mung siya sa Sydney for the Apec summit.

Echoing Cariño, Santos said Ar-

visit to China last December.

"It was there that I found out that the ZTE proposal was, as early as then, overpriced by ... \$130 million" ostensibly to accommodate kickbacks, he said

After he refused to form a partnership with ZTE, De Venecia said Abalos threatened him and Star columnist Janus Bondoc, who had written about the deal

"It was also him (Abalos) that threatened to have Jarius Bondoc and I killed for informing the public of his wrongdoing," De-Venecia told the senators.

Sen. Francis Escudero pointed out that both De Venecia and Arroyo were liable for violation of the antigraft and corruption law (Republic Act No. 3019) because relatives of the president, vice president, Senare president and House Speaker up the 4th degree of consanguinity are barred from involvement in government contracts. (Story on Page A1.)







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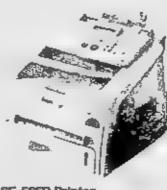
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Claim of impunity

OSE DE VENECIA III'S DEMONSTRATION OF FINger-pointing electrified everyone watching the Senate proceedings. Asked to show how exactly First Gentleman Mike Arroyo told him to drop his bid to get the NBN contract, the younger De Venecia pointed to Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico, who was seated beside him, and screamed, "Back off!" After days of intense

EDITORIAL

speculation, the public now had testimony, under eath. The "mystery man" who tried to intercede on Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos' behalf, was no less than the hus-

band of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The First Gentleman, of course, had suddenly appeared at the Ninoy Agumo International Airport the night before, refusing to talk to the media. While Palace officials scrambled to belie the impression that the departure was rushed, they really had nothing to say Eventually, a bland announcement went out that the departure was for reasons of health, and that because of his precarious health, the First Gentleman shouldn't be pressed on the issue.

But there isn't any shortage of able-bodied and much healthier Palace officials who could have gone to the Senate, but who refused. Whether in terms of Monday's Senate inquiry on the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping, or Tuesday's inquiry into the NBN broadband deal, Palace officials to a man (and woman) failed to show up. The Arroyo administration shows no inclination to cooperate

with the Senate.

The result is that the Senate now has to issue invitations to more and more individuals and raise the ante when it comes to administration personalities who've already been invited. Subpoenas are next. And if those are ignored, contempt citations must, necessarily, follow. Some senators are already so irritated that Sen. Joker Arroyo has had to insist on traditional procedures being · followed, lest the Senate suffer a reversal before the Supreme Court. He says he is certain things are going to end up before the Supreme Court.

Besides invoking, once more, EO 464, the administration can also claim that the commander-in-chief powers of the President authorize her to prohibit military officials from answering a Senate summons. Whether in terms of the Garci tapes or the NBN deal, and, we expect, the CyberEd project, administration policy seems to be to refuse any questions at all. If refusal isn't on the basis of executive privilege, or the commander-in-chief powers (for Garci tapes-related matters), then there's the ex-

"cuse of matters being sub judice.

This isn't just stonewalling. It's more than asserting rights. It goes beyond the separation of powers. This is an assertion of total immunity from accountability, a claim of presidential impunity, not just immunity

Abalos, too, has decided to hide behind his constitutional office in order to avoid being grilled over allegations of patently unconstitutional and illegal behavior. With the House of Representatives poised to get into the act by holding its own NBN-related hearings, the war between the executive and legislative branches is threatening to expand. As it is, Education Secretary Jesli Lapus has already refused to attend the House's Question Hour on the CyberEd project. It will also be the Comelec versus the legislature. And everyone will end up running to the courts.

This is what's so dangerous about the situation. If the administration, after pursuing delaying tactics in the courts, loses, the Senate or even the House may be able to win over a point of principle. But who will enforce Congress' will? An order of arrest signed by either the Senate president or the Speaker would have to be implemented by the Philippine National Police or the Armed Forces of the Philippines. What if they disobey, or are ordered to disobey? Congress could go to court. And then

Perhaps a draw would follow, one lasting until the end of the President's term. If so, it would only make the demands for retribution after the May 2010 elections even more ferocious. To be sure, the Palace may seek comfort in the saying that the public's memory is short. But it is a memory that could instantly be reawakened the moment the First Gentleman comes home And so, the ultimate question is, does this mean so long as Ms Arroyo is President, her husband will remain an exile?

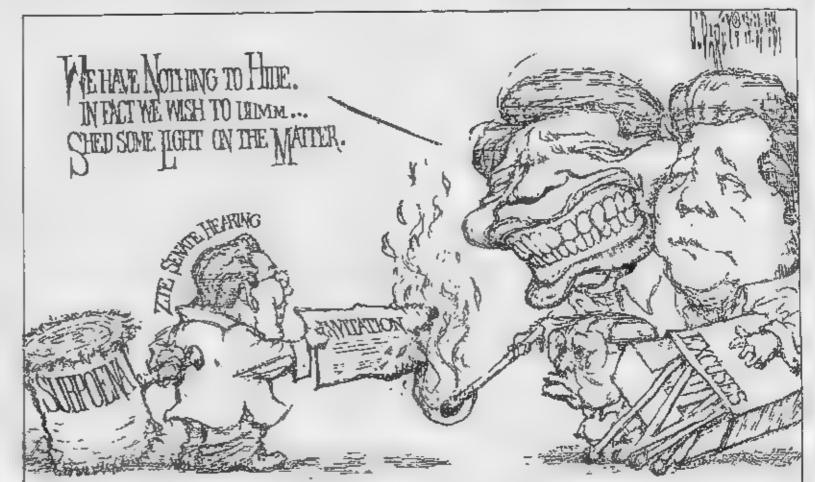
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How much did richest legislators pay in taxes?

SO SENATE PRESIDENT MANUEL VILLAR IS the richest senator (net worth P921.4 million) and his wife, Rep. Cynthia Villar, is the richest member of the House of Representatives. But how much did they pay in personal (not corporate) income taxes? Are these income taxes proportionate to their immense wealth? It is only fair to the other taxpayers that they be informed how much their super-rich leaders pay

Some public officials inflate their net worth in their statements of assets and liabilities not only out of pride but also, some suspicious cynics say, to hide ill-gotten wealth later. If your net worth is already high when you enter public office, it wouldn't be hard to explain your wealth when you leave it

And it is not difficult to inflate or deflate the value of your assets. To inflate, you simply declare the current market value of your real estate properties. To deflate, you declare the acquisition cost which, because of inflation, is very much less than the present market value. And you are not, technically, committing perjury. You are telling the truth in both cases.

That is why some public officials are unusually rich while others are unusually poor. And why public officials with large real estate holdings are usually the "richest." Which probably explains why the Villars are declared year in and year out as the "richest" legislators.

What I'm driving at is that the statement of assets and liabilities is not the real indicator of how rich or poor a person is. The real indicator is how much he or she pays in personal income taxes. The richer he is, or the more assets he has, the bigger the taxes he must pay, di ba? But there are senators and congressmen (and other public offiin taxes. When that happens, the Bureau of Internal Revenue should take out its calculator and find our why. The taxes paid should be proportionate to the assets. If they are not, then there is something wrong somewhere

But we will never know that unless public officials declare in their statements of assets

THERE'S ONE THING I DREAD ABOUT BOOK

launchings. It's not what to say there: Many

things reduce me to inarriculateness but book

membering people's names, which of course is

essential when people line up to you to have

their books signed. Which for some reason they

ansist on, reminding me of that part in "Notting

Hill" (I must have watched that movie a dozen

times, and each time I still laugh out loud at the

wonderfully literate lines there) where Julia

Roberts observes that the travel book she is

about to buy is autographed, and Hugh Grant

replies, yes, the author insisted on it, "but if you

can find one that's not, it'd be worth an absolute

plete friends, or acquaintances, that are. Fve al-

ways had a horrible memory for names and

faces, worsened by doing underground work

during Marcos' time-briefly physically and in-

terminably spiritually-when I had to deal with

faise names or abases or noms de guerre. I saw

little point in remembering them, they were go-

ing to change anyway almost as fast as it took

for their bearers to change their status in life,

from underground to aboveground, from free

to jailed, from living to dead. The last was an

added incentive to letting things slide in the

Teflon of the mind, it didn't help having all the

faces of those with one foot in the grave ("We

who are about to die, greet you") exched in

memory like the names of lovers inside repre-

sentational hearts carved on trees. But I'm prob-

of bad dreams: I completely forgot the name of

someone I worked with in The Daily Globe. It

was the launch of "Dance of the Dunces" in 1991,

I was in a daze from the sleepless nights cram-

ming on the planning and dashing off some things to say along with indulging/fortifying my-

self with Bacchus' divine libations, a thing I was

Years ago, it actually happened to me, the stuff

ably just making excuses.

Complete strangers are no problem, it's com-

No, my problem is more elemental. It is re-

launchings are not one of them

fortune" (or words to that effect)

As I SEE IT Neal H. Cruz

and liabilities how much personal income tax-

People say the law prohibits divulging the taxes paid by any individual. True, but public officials should be exempt from that prohibition. Under the principles of transparency and accountability set by the Constitution, the public lives of public officials should be an open book. If a person wants to retain his privacy, he should not join the government. Once he joins it, there should be no secrets. The public should know almost everything about their public servants, especially the taxes they pay, an obligation of every citizen.

The others among the 10 richest senators are: Jamby Madrigal (net worth: P148.9 million), Mar Roxas (P140.3 million), Bong Revilla (P107 million), Juan Ponce Enrile (P98 million), Jinggoy Estrada (PB3 million), Pia Cayerano (P76.2 million), Minam Delensor-Santiago (P76 million), and Loren Legarda (P41.4 million). All the senators, by the way, are multimillionaires, including the poorest, Antonio Trillanes, whose net worth is P2.3 million.

International and national business magazines, also list the richest businessmen every year. The richest among the Filipinos are usually the Chinese taipans like Lucio Tan, Henry Sy, John Gokongwei, etc. and the Spamsh-Filcials) with plenty of assets but who pay peanuts ipino Ayala and Zobel families. Congratulations, but how much did they pay in personal income taxes? The magazines, much less the super rich themselves, don't say, it would be good for the BIR to publish how much taxes they paid, to encourage other taxpayers to pay correct taxes, but it does not.

The BIR usually publishes the names of the

biggest income taxpayers, both corporate and personal. So why does it not publish the taxes paid by public officials, especially members of Congress, and by our richest businessmen? They should lead the rest of the catteenry in paying taxes, shouldn't they? The people should know if their richest countrymen are paying the correct taxes.

And if they know that the BIR publishes the taxes they pay, they would be forced to always pay the correct taxes, wouldn't they? Why be ashamed to reveal the taxes you paid if they

But shy public officials and the BIR say the law prohibits making public the taxes paid by individuals. I see no good reason for this prohibition except to give public officials an excuse to keep their tax payments secret.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, official spokesman of former President Joseph Estrada, told the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday that he would file a resolution asking the BIR to reveal the taxes paid by members of Congress and also file a bill that would mandate the publication of the taxes paid by top public officials in the spirit of transparency and accountability. Only those who are not paying the correct taxes would oppose such a bill

TODAY'S JOKES. The conviction for plunder of former President Estrada has spawned a welter of jokes. Erap jokes are usually corny, but here are two of them any-

Lawyer to Erap before the reading of the sentence: May I have your cell (phone)

Erap: Tarantado ka anol Hindi pa nga ako nahahatulan, cell ko na ang tinatanong mo.

After Erap's conviction, President Macapagal-Arroyo went to his Tanay vacation house to

GMA. I'm going to give you a parole. Erap: Avoko, It's still too early to put up Christmas decorations.

There's the rub

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



been augmented by grotesque protrusions, courtesy of gour. When her turn came, her face beaming down on me where I sat, I simply could not summon up her name.

Porgetting names has its remedies in social life, when you can always call male friends "bok," or "pare," or the now ubsquitous "ser," and your female friends, their equivalents. In fact, half the time you don't even have to call them by name, you can just resort to "Kumusta na?" while beding time, hoping their identities will floar on the surface of your consciousness like the bloated bodies of the drowned. Except of course at parties or socials when you're compelled to introduce your companions to others, but which you can always get around by saying, "Why don't you just introduce yourselves?" Or some such breezy remark, though that requires practice to get the proper air of nonchalance across. I can't say I've been able to master it

But as I was saying, this person suddenly loomed before me, bearing probably in expectation of a nice dedication, and I could not for the life of me remember her name. My anxiety turned to nervousness and my nervousness to full blown panic, and my mind turned from blank to blanker. In my mind's eye, or paranoia, l could feel everyone in the line eyeing me freifulby like a queue at a supermarket does a cashier whose cash register has suddenly conked out. My agitation must have been patent to my signature-taker she seemed prepared to take out something from her handbag to relieve me of my agony like one of those ads about diarrhea.

Days later, I could imagine all sorts of witty things to say, but there and then, well, I still wont to do then, my fingers not yet having

dropped the ball. Before I could say anything with any semblance of savoir faire, she said with much savoir faire, "I'm not wanted by the police, I'm still using my old name," and she gave it to me to my vast relief-as vast as the one you see in ads about diarrhea. We should have traded places

All this craziness is just to say that I will soon probably find myself in the same predicament again. I'm launching a book this Friday, and it is not for my publisher alone that I'm making this shameless advertisement. The book is called "Tongues on Fire," which is also the title of the first piece. (The last is called "Silence," fittingly enough.) It's a collection of the speeches I've delivered over the years on various occasions. As I explain in the preface, it's the product of the patient exhortations of my publisher, Karina Bolasco of Anvi., and the notso-patient harangues of my devoted readers, who have resorted to making me feel guilty (at last to some avail) by saying they have been laboriously clipping my columns

I've decided to come out with the speeches first to put, if not my best foot forward, at least one damn good one. Also, I didn't realize I had delivered a great many speeches all these years, in great part for graduations. Who knows? Maybe it can spark an enthusiasm of speechifying or orating among today's students, a dying art if ever I saw one. Who knows even more? Maybe it can improve the quanty of speeches in the Senate and House of Representatives-I understand that the privilege speech is currently Congress' version of the recess bell, it's the signai for the legislators to leave the half and take their coffee break—though elegance seems to be the last thing their atterances need; truthful-

The launch is at the Peta Theater Center, No. 5 Sunnyside Drive, Barangay Kristong Ham, Quezon City, 6-8 p.m. Bring a witty line with you just in case I forget your name. It won't get you your book for free but it could give you smug satisfaction

Verdict on plunder opens new controversy

While Estrada stays in his Tanay estate, where

he was spared the rigors of incarceration and

lived in enviable comfort, the execution of his

sentence remains auspended, putting him in a

cided by a few key questions, including whether

he appeals to the Supreme Court to overturn the

Sandiganbayan decision or seeks presidential

pardon or is covered by an amnesty, all of which

raise a host of contentious legal issues. The ques-

tion of executive elemency has put President

Macapagal-Arroyo on the spot and has put under

a cloud the contention that the decision has

closed a chapter in the seemingly perpetual rival-

ry between Estrada and Ms Arroyo. In reality, the

decision opened new fissures in this venderta and

has divided the nation more deeply than the

Estrada has played these cleavages to his advan-

rage. He has turned the tables on his tormentors.

His lawyers are saying that he is open to amnesty or

pardon but he would like to read the "fine print"

first. They are, in effect, laying the conditions for his

pardon or amnesty, or even for negotiations for the

For the first time in the history of criminal ju-

risprudence in this country, a convict is laying

down the terms of the execution of his sentence.

This makes the public curious over who won or

The eventual dest...ation of Estrada is to be de-

Amando

Doronila

EXPECTATIONS THAT THE SANDIGANBAYAN'S decision convicting former President Joseph Estrada of plunder had put an end by judicial fiat to his case as the most disruptive element in political stability crashed on the rocks within days of

tencing Estrada to life imprisonment, than a new controversy, more destabilizing for national unity than the already decided case, flared over the question of executive elemency, or what's next for

This much is certain. He was not promptly dispatched to the national penitentiary in Muntiniupa upon promulgation of the decision, a fate that befalls lesser Filipino citizens beneath the rank of ex-president. Instead, the court allowed him to be returned to his house arrest sanctuary in Tanay until further orders from the court on his final

Politicians advanced the explanation that the lemency accorded to Estrada was more than judicial-it was "not to humiliate" him in the interest of bringing about political reconciliation. Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who defended Estrada stoutly during Estrada's impeachment trial in the Senate, said, "He should not be humiliated." It was the same Enrile who looked very forlorn after the tribunal voted 11-10 to seal the second envelope containing evidence of the Jose Velarda account. In the pandemonium following the vote, journalists and TV cameramen all mobbed Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Ja, who voted with the minority of 10 and resigned the Senate presidency, They ignored Enrile, the villain of public opinion during the trial, standing forlormly in the corridor, and he was heard to remark, "Is there anyone who wants to talk to me?"

Pangilinan, who ran for reelection in May 2007, pleader for extraordinary lemency for Estrada. He said Estrada "must be accorded the respect and dignity (due to) a former head of state."

pedient to grant Estrada a pardon, as this is a presidential prerogative, if not sooner then later. ANALYSIS How to do it, without making either Estrada or the administration lose face, has generated a hot debate among lawyers.

Estrada would consider either pardon or amnesty so long as he does not have to admit guilt, and he insists he is not guilty of plunder and that the court was a kangaroo court and he was tried under a lynch mob political atmosphere.

Estrada's spokesman, Rep. Rufus Rodriguez says, Estrada is open to amnesty, but he needs to make sure of the provisions. It needs to be studied. The No. 1 provision is that there should be no admission of guilt. Pardon is really out."

There is also the question of whether he is eligible for amnesty, since it is also argued by some Palace officials that "amnesty is for political offenders only and not for phinderers," Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno has said he favors a presidential pardon but Estrada must first "make a formal and official request." There is a stalemate on this issue.

The Palace is unlikely to back down on this, a course that is humiliating and mocks the presidency. Will Estrada come down? The public may ask, is the vanquished laying down the terms of capitulation for the victors?

President Arroyo has said she felt that her administration would become more stable as a consequence of the Sandiganbayan decision. Her spokesperson quoted her as saying: "We have a country to run, an economy to grow, and a peace to win. We hope that this sad episode in our history will not permanently distract us from these goals."

Public opinion polls reveal considerable sentiment for pardon for Estrada at some point, and Estrada and the administration are both aware of this mood. The predicament of the administration is how to accommodate this mood without being embarrassed for capitulating to Estrada's demands. If it does, it would fling wide open the floodgates of another, more dangerous, round of

lost in the plunder case. Estrada has made the government hostage in its deliberation on what to do with him. There is a developing consensus among Cabinet members that it is politically ex-

Joys of language

MY PARENTS' GENERATION HAD TO TAKE 24 UNITS OF Spanish in college. My generation, now in mid-life, had to take 12 units. Eventually, the requirement was completely

Today, some universities require Spanish for specific majors, usually history. Other courses will have a foreign language requirement, but leave students to choose what they

want to take. Some courses have no foreign language requirement at all, and this is where there are debates. Should we still require some exposure to foreign languages?



University Council meeting at UP, the College of Mass Communication proposed abolishing the foreign language requirement for film majors. Dr. Sergio Cao, the UP Diliman chancellor, expressed reservations and asked why they wanted to abolish the requirement. The Mass Com faculty said that a few units of a foreign language would not produce proficiency anyway. Happity, the foreign language requirement was retained as faculty members agreed that the aim of a foreign

I couldn't agree more. I'm going to explain how exposure to foreign languages helps us not only to deal with globalization but to better appreciate our own national languages.

'Ultimo Adios'

I grew up in a multilingual environment, with English, Minnan Chinese, Mandarin and Flipping used at home and in

did learn enough to get by Ironically, it was the informa. course in French that proved most useful, because Odille used an immersion approach, forcing our small class to

The formal classes in Spanish were, sadly, not too useful

Later in college, I rediscovered Spanish in the prose and

In linguistics, we have a term, "prosody," to refer to the study of the rhythms of languages. Appreciating languages like we do with music helps us to become more appreciative of cultural diversity. I'm always shocked by how parochial we Filipinos can be, making fun of other people's languages. (Oh, but we ethnic Chinese really get offended when people go ching-chong-chingchang-cho"-we consider that a form of racism.) We live in a region dominated by tonal languages like Chanese, That, Vietnamese, and we should learn to savor their musicality. There are in fact studies suggesting that young children who grow up

of college Spanish and Odille's Prench classes helped. least you can aim to get the phonetics, the sounds, right. The other night I was listening to an American missionary on an AM radio station and I felt so sad for him. His grammar was perfect, but he mangled every vowel and consonant in Fil ipino. (Example: "Ang te-oh ay ma-kha-sa-le-nen" to mear "People are sinful.") it's not surprising, given that Americans rarely bother learning another language while in school, so

very difficult to pick up the sounds Our edge in the world job market 15n't just because of our

just getting the phonetics right makes you special. As we learn more languages, we see, too, how people deat with their own languages. We learn how much they love their native tongue, even as they retain an openness to pick ing up words, and languages, from the world. You'll find that multilingual people are more adventurous as well as more

Let's start then with our own linguistic backyards. At UP-College of Arts and Letters, the Department of Filipino has a course "Suroy Suroy sa Wika, Panuikan at Kultura" offering a tell you, it may as well be a class in music. Our languages may not be tonal, but they have their own kind of infectious musical quality. Whenever I return from a trip to Iloilo, I find myself speaking Tagalog, English and even Chinese with an

If you have kids at home, I'd suggest you pick up Akar Adarna's "Hale, Hale, Hoy" where you can learn to count in Gaddang and Bicolano, unravel Tausug, Waray and Manobo ipino translations are provided whenever Tagalog is not used, but recruit your non-Tagalog friends to help get the words right and to tune your children's ears to the wonders

Hale, hale, hoy! Let's go.

During our last language requirement wasn't mastery in the first place,

school. In college, I took the 12 units of Spanish, plus 3 units of German. (Since I was a biology major, my advisor thought German would be useful.) After college, working with nongovernment organizations, I went through a three-month crash course in French with Odille Malay before being shipped out to France for a fund-raising campaign. I never really mastered Spanish, German or French, but I

speak in it, using very practical simulated experiences.

because it was mainly memory work, conjugating verbs and memorizing Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios" without really understanding, much less appreciating, the words

poetry of Latin American writers, and in the songs of revolutionary Latin American music. Oh, if only Spanish had been taught to us in classes using contemporary examples. I would have argued, at that University Council meeting, that a film major would gain the most from an Almodovar film not just by watching but by listening to the original Spanish soundtrack. Sure, subtitles heap, but it's still different hearing the Spanish script.

learning Chinese actually become better with music, the language's tones giving them that "ear" for music.

Families

My bookshelves at home are filled with phrase books from all kinds of languages because I find it useful to pick up basic words whenever I have to visit a new country. It's fairly easy for me to "slide" into new languages because I've been exposed, even minimally, to so many linguistic "families." Bahasa Indonesia is a breeze because it belongs to the same family as Philippine languages. In Japan, I can make my way looking at Kanji street signs-Kanji meaning "Chinese words", many of which were incorporated into Japan. When I studied in the Netherlands, I could read, albeit slowly Durch newspapers because of English—and the three units of college German. Once in Brazil, I signed up for a local tour group because they had run out of slots for the English guide I never regretted it: the Portuguese-speaking guide had all these little stories to tell which you didn't get in the English group. I never took Portuguese lessons but yes, the 12 units

You might not master a language with three units, but ar when they do venture into a foreign language, they find it

English but also our multilingual exposure, which makes it easy for us to pick up new languages. I once met a Chinese Filipino who grew up in Antique and learned to speak Kini raya, Ilonggo, Tagalog, English, Hokkien and Mandarin. For eign languages were a breeze in college for him and he's now winning the world with his linguistic charm. Let's face it, the best way to bridge different cultures is to offer to learn each other's languages. Sometimes, even with a tiny vocabulary

tolerant of diversity. The Dutch are an excellent example.

"tour" of Philippine languages, literature and culture. I can

riddles and sing out in dozens of Philippine languages. Fil.

No sooner had the ink dried on the verdict, sen-

Another mealy mouthed politician, Sen. Francis defining himself as an "Independent," became a

Lessons they learned

plunder case ever did.

presidential exercise of clemency

"DURING OUR TIME IN THE SENATE," RECALLED former Sen. Eva Estrada Kalaw, "our colleagues dismissed everything we did by saying: 'Mga babae lang yan (They're just women). Even if we knew they were wrong, it still hurt."

Relations with their male colleagues figured prominently in the talks and during the open forum of the Second Emment Women in Politics Lecture Series. The event, organized jointly by the Miriam College-Women and Gender Institute and the Office of the Senate President, paid tribute to three women, all of whom had served as senators: Kaiaw, Helena Benitez and Santanina Rasu. Last year's honoree was former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani.

Rasul, who was the first and so far the only Filipino Mushim woman to be elected to the Senate, remarked that "men are really chauvinists," when asked by a student if there is really equality berween men and women. When she filed her bill seeking to deciare March 8 a non-working holiday and to be observed as National Women's Day (March is now observed as National Women's Month), she recalled, "all my colleagues agreed to be co-authors, but when it came to the plenary discussion, all the men rose up and demanded that if there was going to be a women's day, then

there should be a men's day, too!" In contrast, Benitez said the Senate in her time may have been mase-dominated, "but even so, it was gender-fair." But this was because, she implied, the Senate in the 1960s was an "urbane, civil and civilized place,"

odds don't favor the woman candidate, women should still take the plunge and dare run for of-fice. As Kalaw remarked. "There are more women voters than men." Her remarks were especially apt for that gathering because the country was commemorating last Sept. 17 the 70th anniversary of Filipino women's right to suffrage. It also happened that it was Senator Kalaw's mother-in-

STILL, as Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan, president of Muriam College, observed, "70 years after win-

30-year struggle to give women the right to vote.

law, Pura Villanueva Kalaw, who spearheaded the

AT LARGE



under-represented in government and in decision-making positions.

Licuanan cited the concluding comments of the CEDAW committee when it reviewed the Philippine report, which noted "the low level of participation of women in all levels of government," and urged the Philippine government "to take measures, even temporary special measures" to ensure a more balanced rep-

resentation by women in public life.

Speaking on "Feminist Concepts of Power: A Woman's Place is in Politics," Licuanan recalled the process by which the theme of the 1995 Fourth World Conference on Women was determined. "A strong contender suggested by the European countries was 'Half the World, Half the Power," she said. But other governments, particularly those from Asia, were uncomfortable with such a strong, aggressive demand for power and instead suggested what ultimately became the conference theme:

"Equality, Development and Peace." Still, said Licuanan, the incident became for All three also agreed that while even today the her an example of "women's ambivalence to-

> BUT even as women struggle to attain greater voice and visibility, added Licuanan, women seek political power "to transform politics as we know seeking to create a political system that is "transformed and transformational," and to change the attitude that views "power as domina-tion" to one that sees power as "liberation."

Even so, the three former senators had advice, culled from experience, to give to every woman in the gathering thinking of running for office

Benitez reminded future candidates to make ning the right to vote, Filipino women are still sure that women will vote for you, because wom-

en do not necessarily vote for other women. That's a painful fact, but true."

Rasul added that "women leaders will not always be supportive of women or their causes." She also reminded the audience that "it is not easy to run for an electoral position, today you

need a lot of money or to be an artista. Kalaw's advice was blunt: "You make your choice. You want to do good but refuse to get mixed up in politics, then stay with your NGOs. But once you decide to run for office, you have to know how to play the political game, and that includes dealing with political parties."

RASUL also reminded everyone that "there is life after the Senate."

For her part, after losing in her third campaign, Rasul simply resumed the work she had been doing through the Magbassa Kita Foundation, pursuing a lifelong mission devoted to adult literacy, which began when she was just a child and would pass on stories which she had read to her friends and neighbors through nightly storytelling sessions. These days, Magbassa Kita is also involved in peace advocacy, which Rasul herself pursued when she became a member of the government panel in the RP-MNLF talks. The continuing conflict in Mindanao, she reminded the audience, "is not a Mindanao problem but a Manila problem, since it is the policymakers and decision-makers who have a say on whether there will be peace or violence in Mindanao.

Benitez, too, continues her lifelong advocacy of education, being chair of the PWU Board of Trustees, while Kalaw showed that age has not dulled her combative stance nor blunt

When Marta Gomez, herself a feminist activist who has tried her hand in electoral politics, asked the three honorees "how different would life have been if you had been male," Benitez replied, "I am happy to be a woman." Rasul admitted that if she had been male she would

"probably have been a warlord or a fighter." But it was Kalaw who brought the house down when she replied: "I think I would be a

Origins of boxing in RP

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA SLIPPED WHILE SING ing the National Anthem before a boxing match recently. He didn't slip on the notes, he did on the words and show-biz news made a big thing out of

Last Sunday, during the unveiling of a historical marker commemorating the birth centennial of National Scientist Dr. Geminiano T. Ocampo, the person in charge of the anthem also missed its last part. I let it pass because of the person's age, besides I was distracted while singing because Dr. Ocampo (no relation) was being hailed as the "Father of Philippine Ophthalmology," a title which I felt should rightfully belong to Jose Rizal. As a matter of fact, Dr. Ocampo was an admirer of Rizal and one of his prized possessions was the set of ophthalmic tools that were once used and owned by Rizal. Few people saw the irony in the fact that the "Father of Philippine Ophthalmology" was serenaded with musical numbers by a

rondalla composed of biind men. While I'm glad that Baunsta's gaffe led media to direct its attention to the National Anthem, most of the usual commentaries on radio and TV were knee-jerk reactions. While it is true that we should know the anthem by heart (or in the head), those who jumped on Bautista should accept an honest mistake when they see one. Why demand an apology from Bautista when it is fairly obvious that he would not have sung the anthem wrong on purpose? No normal Filipino will intentionally dishonor the flag or anthem. These

things happen and should be excused. At best a mistake can be used constructively. Wouldn't it be useful for commentators to use the Bautista gaffe as an introduction to a discussion on how the anthem should be sung and why? Nobody seems to mind when artists take liberties with the anthem, either singing it slow as "Ama Namin" or changing the tune, pitch and emphasis in certain parts. Instead of harping on a mistake, the same could be used to educate viewers and listeners. LOOKING BACK



Ambeth R. Ocampo

Early morning TV and radio use up a lot of energy that unfortunately generates more heat than light. Most gatherings and programs today start with

an invocation and the singing of the anthem. I don't know what has happened to simple and direct prayer, but more and more programs start with the song "A Prayer," which is too long and does not inspire listeners to prayer.

Then we have the anthem played in movie theaters during what is still known as the "last full show." Do movie theaters screen partial shows? Should we sing the anthem in theaters and boxing matches? Do we ask ourselves why we do things the way we do?

Before readers get bored with yet another column on the flag and anthem, let me share the loot from an afternoon in the library. Going through the periodicals section, I stopped somewhere near the academic journals and found an article by Anne R. Tapp, "Mecca of Oriental Pugdom. Philippine Boxing 1898-1921

You can never tell what academics will study next-everything from political trends to leg ;iggling among Filipino males. I remember being very amug about my own esoteric field-Rizal-until my supervisor gave me humbling advice. He said, "You should never presume to think you know everything about your topic, because there will always be an obscure German academic who has written an article about your subject long before you were born."

In the age of Manny Pacquiao one would think that we can easily find a history of boxing in the

Philippines, only to realize that what we have is a short but fascinating overview that not only traces the origins of boxing in the Philippines but also situates the sport within the "civilizing" mission of the United States in the Philippines. It teases out the relationship between sports and soenery, showing how the Americans unsuccessfully introduced baseball to substitute for the Filipino fondness for cockfighting

Baseball was not like basketball which has since become our national sport. Boxing was like cockfighting, except that you had two men rather than birds fighting in a ring. More fascinating was the fact that there were Filipino-American matches that emphasized racial tension and settled

these in the boxing ring. One of my prized American-period postcards shows a boxing match in Laguna between two midgets in diapers being held apart by an American referee. At first glance, the postcard is odd and quite funny, but if you go beyond boxing as a sport and place it in the context of the US civilizing mission in the Philippines, there is something deeper than this eccentric postcard. Boxing was introduced for sport and fitness, but in practice it spawned gambling so that the Philippine Commission in 1902 enacted Act 557 that sought to curb the ills that came with cockfighting and boxing.

In the Payne-Aldrich Tariff Act of 1909 we had free trade between the United States and the Philippines and nobody, except Tapp, noticed that a decade after this was passed, the Philippines became the largest foreign purchaser of American sporting equipment. Nobody seems to remember Palomar Park established in 1909 in Tondo, Manila that had, among merry-go-rounds and other forms of amusement, boxing matches run by the Trezo Boxing Club. There is so much obscure information to be

found and so few researchers in libraries. Comments are welcome at accampo@ateneo.edu The INQUIRER is a member of the

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PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

A new 'miracle' in Subic, with Palace intervention

showcased the best in the Fflipino.

Just as the world watched aghast how Clark Air Base was stripped down to the last toilet bowl by looters shortly after the Americans abandoned it, the world 'later stood in awe and admiration of the zealousness of the "Olongapo volunteers" in safeguarding the billion-dollar facilities left behind by the US Navy in

No looting took place in all the areas guarded by them. The only looting there was in the Subic Command building

IT WASN'T LONG AGO WHEN SUBIC which served as headquarters of a miletary contingent.

The Subic Bay Freeport was founded on the honesty, sacrifice and selfless dedication of Olongapo residents who, despire a seemingly bleak future without the Americans, remained steadfast and accomplished the "Subic Miracle."

Now, by a twist of fate, Subic is again in center stage because of another "miracle." This time, of the despicable kind. Once famous for having strict rules and regulations (gate passes for entry, purchase cards for buying PX goods, stiff traffic policy), Subic is now notorious for the full support behind the leadership of the cañang. Its tenmuracie" of smuggled goods, luxury vehicles and oil fuel. A smuggling hotbed. What happened?

Preeport supposedly enjoys autonomy from the national government. As the first-ever free port in the country, it has its own governing rules and its own tight security policy carried over from the time it was still a US nava) base

During her presidency, Cory Aquino hardly meddled in the affairs of Subic. Neither did Fidel Ramos, who threw his

Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority then. Smuggling might have reared its ugly head during that time, but it is safe to Under Republic Act 7227, the Subic say that it was only "on a small, manage-

> But when President Joseph Estrada came to power, Malacahang started to exercise dominion over Subic and this was when large-scale smuggling started. The problem worsened when Gloria Macapagai-Arroyo and the First Gentleman spread their tentacles all over Subsc.

Yes, the problem in Subic is Mala-

ants should keep their hands off the free port. And they should get their dirty, re-

tired generals out of there Yes, Malacañang should let competent, apolitical executives manage the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, and smuggling will be minimized if not totally curbed. It is not too late to save and pursue the promise of Subic

-EMILIO TRINIDAD, 85 Rizal Ave., West Tapinac, Olongapo City

PAULIPPINE



ALAGA KO

On June 30, **INQUIRER** and UNITAB concluded Its third medical missions almed at upliffing the lives of its valued partners, the newsboys. Shown in the photo is Dr. Lall Aleta, one of the volunteer doctors, checklng up a newsboy while the others await their turn. This mission covered over 150 newsboys and their familles.

PARTNER KO,: Repairs: A tale of (politicians from) two countries

LAST AUG. 6, AT A BRIDGE ACROSS THE Thames River near the London Eye, the world's largest observation wheel, I noticed a sign that read "The Mayor of London apologizes to the public for the inconvenience that might be caused during the repair and repainting of this bridge." The mayor is characteristically different from the Filipmo politician.

If that repair job were in the Philippines, a big billboard, with the name and picture of the politician, would be displayed with words to the effect that the improvement was made possible because of his or her efforts, almost giving the impression that the funds came from his or her pocket.

Just before the death anniversary of Princess Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed, the press came out with a story that a planned accident had caused their death. In the United States, speculation persists that it was that country's invisible government that snuffed out the life of their first Catholic president. In the Philippines, we had Ninoy Aquino dying on the tarmac of the international airport. I am now convinced that people living in different parts of the globe, regardless of the color of their skin or the length of their noses, are de-

scendants of Cam and Abel

When Malacañang had a Waray-Waray occupant, cemented roads from Aparri to Jolo were constructed. Almost all towns got electricity where before only big towns and cities had them. Beautiful parks mushroomed all over the country. Then we got the Philippine International Convention Center, Cultural Center of the Philippines, Lung Center, Kidney Center, Children's Hospital, etc. The mothballed nuclear facility might, after alt, be made to produce electricity. Are these touches of genius inspired by bahalina?

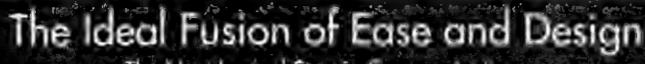
Allow me to thank Conrado de Outros for his July 30 column which I first read on the Internet while I was in the United Kingdom. My favorite watch is Rado. Now my favorite columnist is Conrado. Aside from Belinda Olivares-Cananan, of course. Should De Quiros be here in Calubian on Oct. 7, the feast day of St Therese of the Child Jesus, bahalina will be our drink with adobo nga barınday and kinılao nga pasayan as sumsuman

Let us make bahaling the national drink. Again my modest proposal.

-ANTERO JUNIA JR., Calubian, Leyte 6534

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Bottom line in 'open skies:' Choice

IT SEEMS THAT NEAL H. CRUZ does not see the complete picture of "unfair competition in 'open skies." (INQUIRER, 8/10/07) Perhaps unwittingly, he is parroting Philippine Airlines' oft-repeated contention against releasing us, the riding public, from its monopolistic stranglehold of the Philippine skies.

PAEs standard cry is that it faces "unfair competition" from foreign airlines, especially those receiving state or government support in the form of loans, subsidies, etc. But what it does not tell Cruz and the public is that PAL itself receives state support in the form of tax-free gasoline and other perks. For instance, PAL gained exclusive use of the Nata 2 terminal without construction. The rest of its comperitors have to cram into the old Naia 1 terminal.

Besides, PAL is making money by just simply renting its seat allocation to competing airlines in the

so-called "code-sharing scheme." Without flying additional planes, PAL earns through huge commissions. And prices of atrfares remain as exorbitant as ever. The sad fact is that the routes (e.g., Doha and Dubai) are the ones frequented by our overseas workers, who bear the brunt of costly fares; they are made to think, though, that they fly PAL when in reality they are using other airlines.

"Open skies" is indeed a comply cated issue. The solution is not just to subsidize PAL, which the government is already doing. The bottom line for the riding public, especially our overseas workers, is greater accessibility or wider choices of airlines with the best services at affordable prices. Let spending a single centavo for its - us give the consumer more choic-

-ARNEL E DE GUZMAN, managing director, Pacific Resource Institute for Migrant Empowerment (PRIME), arneldg2000@yahoo.com

RP was not 'Christianized' in 1521

THE COMMENT OF BENITO Legarda Jr. (INQUINER, 8/13/07) to my reaction titled "What Islam can do to RP* (INQUIRER, 08/03/07) is nonsense. Assuming that my estimate of Islam's preceding Christianity in the Philippines is off by over 250 years, still the proposition that Ferdinand Magellan's landing in the Philippines in 1521 brought Christianity into the Philippines is wrong. Magellan stayed for a few days only in Limasawa Island and then in Cebu, where he and most of his followers were killed by Muslim warriors led by Lapu-lapu. The mission of Magellan's expedition was to search for spices in this part of the world.

Christianity was established in this country only after the arrival of the succeeding Spanish expeditionary forces (the first led by Legazp: in the 16th century) and the Spanish Jesuits, and the next two in the 17th and 18th centuries by the conquistadores through tyranny.

The Filipmos in Luzon and the Visayas fought valiantly against the Spanish oppressors but, after many years of fighting, they succumbed to the Spanish mission here in the Philippines. It was only the Musicms (Moros) in Mindanao who repelled those foreign in-

-IBRAHEM M. DEANALAN, Cebu City

RHC ethic being sneaked in via LGUs

Esguerra for his front-page story on Kapatiran's John Carlos de los Reyes. (INQUIRER, 8/12/07) Reyes has embarked on an exceedingly brave and lonely battle that bears close watching in Olongapo City it would appear, from his opening salvo, that he is more than just another Don Quixote. He has taken on formidable opponents, among them the proponents of the Reproductive Health Code (RHC) which carries with it the language and ethic (as well as intent?) that ac-

cept abortion as a human right. Funding for USAID's deadly buffet of donated condoms, pills and devices (many of which are abortifacient) is trickling dry, and population control proponents would have this program financed by taxpayers at the local level.

I'D LIKE TO THANK CHRISTIAN V. Having failed to breach the strong lobby of the Catholic Church in Congress, RHC proponents are now working to sneak in the program by the back door, via local governments

The battle lines have moved from the Barasan to the provincial boards and city councils. We all need to be vigilant, and when we find champions like De los Reyes, let us be generous with our sunport. We need more Kapatiran public servants who (to paraphrase John & Kennedy) ask not what their constituents can do for them but what they can do for their constituents. May their tribe increase, and may they stay the

> -MA ESQUIVEL, Vienna Street, Merville Park, Parafiaque City

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MILF members leave camp for Ramadan

ZAMBOANGA CITY-MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION Front (MILF) forces in Basilan have returned to their homes to spend the Ramadan with their families, a ranking rebel official said.

Earlier, the MILF ordered its men in Basilan, "numbering about 500," to converge in their camps to avoid clashes with soldiers hunting down suspects in the July 10 beheading of 10 Marines in Albarka town

Sattar Alih, MILF representative to the local joint monitoring committee in Basilan, said the return of their forces to their homes was coordinated with the military.

"We, from the local joint monitoring team, initiated talks and coordination with military officials to allow our forces to perform their religious obligations. We asked them to allow us one month of fasting and almost a week of Harraya (end of the

fasting month) celebration," Alin told the Inquirer on Monday. Alth said after the Ramadan,

MILF forces are ready to be stationed to their camps again should the military resume the manhunt.

"Provided we were properly informed prior of any military offensive. In 20 minutes, we could easily regroup and give way to soldiers for the hunt against the Abu Sayyaf," he said.

Basılan Gov. Jum Jamodóm Akbar said he wished that displaced families could also return to their villages for the Ramadan.

in Valenzuela is worse and they

did not report that. We are sad

and angry about it. I am ready

But Guillermo said he was al-

so thankful that the report was

publicized because it would

serve as a wake-up call for resi-

He said Caloocan's waste

dumped in an area along a river

cteaning our river," he said

dents and officials here

"(But) we don't have the approval or go-signal from the milstary to allow the return of the evacuees, we are still waiting for their official order," he said.

He said it was difficult for the evacuees, numbering about 2,700 families, to spend the Ramadan in the houses of their friends or relatives.

"I am just hoping that the military will immediately grant the approval as we are going to meet within this week so that the evacuees could observe Ramadan in their homes," Akbar said.

The Ramadan is expected to autonomous region. end in the first week of October.

Peace talks between the government and the guerrillas are stalled on issues of territory.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had dangled ancestral domain titles for the guerrillas to accept government terms in a peace agreement that would require a plebiscite for the creation of an autonomous region that has an area bigger than the existing one

But the MILF said a plebiscite should not be part of the conditions for the expansion of the

The Moro National Liberation Front had entered into a peace agreement with the government in September 1996, but its leaders said the pact has barely been enforced, accusing government of various violations and continuing neglect.

Poreign donor countries have expressed interest in pursuing the talks, saying they were ready to pour in investments in Mindanao should there be a finai peace agreement. Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao

Seize stray dogs, execs told in bid to stop rabies

BAUANG LA UNION---The local government has ordered village officials to seize stray dogs in an effort to prevent the spread of rabies in the town

Mayor Roberto de Guzman said the stray dogs would be impounded and owners would be given two days to claim their pets or these would be kılled.

Earlier, Bauang officials declared the town under a state of calamity after 95 people were reported to be infected with rabies. Three persons have died since January this year

The town has an ordinance preventing dogs to stray. It penalizes erring dog owners P1,000.

De Guzman, in a phone interview, said the ordinance would be strictly implemented because rabies infection is fast spreading in the town due to dog attacks.

On Monday, two residents, one from Disso-or Village and one from Parian Oeste, were bitten by dogs, increasing the number of victims to 97

One of the dogs died while the other is under observation, he said.

De Guzman said a survey undertaken by the local government showed that the town has about 6,000 dogs. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, Inquirer Northern Luxon

BULACAN AREAS IN DIRTY LIST

Pollution report hurts execs

MARILAO. BULACAN-OFFIcials here said they were dismayed that the town was included in the list of 30 most polluted places in the developing world drawn up by the New Yorkbased Blacksmith Institute.

Mayor Epifanio Guillermo said industries based in nearby Metro Manila and garbage thrown by residents of the metropolis coninbuted to the degradation of the rivers of this town and the nearby City of Meycal ayan.

Guillermo cited a case of chemical waste dumping by a Valenzuela. City-based firm into an irrigation canal here in December last year

Dirty 30

Marilao and Meycauayan were the only areas in Southeast Asia Included in the "Dirty 30" list.

In its report, "The World's Worst Politiced Places," the Blacksmith Institute said industrial waste is "haphazardly dumped into the Marilao, Meycauayan, and Obando River system, a source of drink ing and agricultural water supplies for the 250,000 people living in and around" the area.

The river system is extremely polluted due to wastes received from tanneries, gold and precious metals refineries, the largest lead smelter in the Philippines, and numerous municipal dumpsites," it said

Mad, ashamed

Guillermo said he was "mad" and "felt bad and ashamed" as the people of Marilao were portrayed as "dirty" when in reality, they could not be blamed for the pollution of the town's rivers

Guillermo said Valenzuela and Caloocan cities in Metro Manila and Meycanayan were the sources of pollution of Mari-

TAGLEG

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in Barangay Bagong Silang near "The report was drastic The their town caused the pollution condition of the Tullahan River of their river.

No control

During high tide these wastes are washed down to the to resign anytime if any person river. What can we do? How can or group would succeed in we control that," he said

> Gov. Joselito Mendoza said they were aware of the problem and were seeking a US government aid to fund the rehabilitation of the river system of Man. lao and Meycauayan. Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luson

An Invitation To A Pilgrimage

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PTAA



Team to search for RP eagles

CITY OF MALOLOS-THE PHILIPPINE EAGLE Poundation will send a survey team to Bulacan to determine if the Philippine eagle (Pithecophoga jefferyi) still thrives in the province's forests and in parts of the Sierra Madre mountain range.

Jayson Ibañez, coordinator of the PEF's field research program, said the survey would cover the forests of Norzagaray and Doña Remedios Trinidad towns and San Jose del Morke City.

Ibañez said they wanted to validate reports of residents in these areas and members of the Dumagat tribe living in forests that they saw Philippine eagles within the Angat Watershed Reservation Area.

He said some accounts also showed that eagles have been captured there.

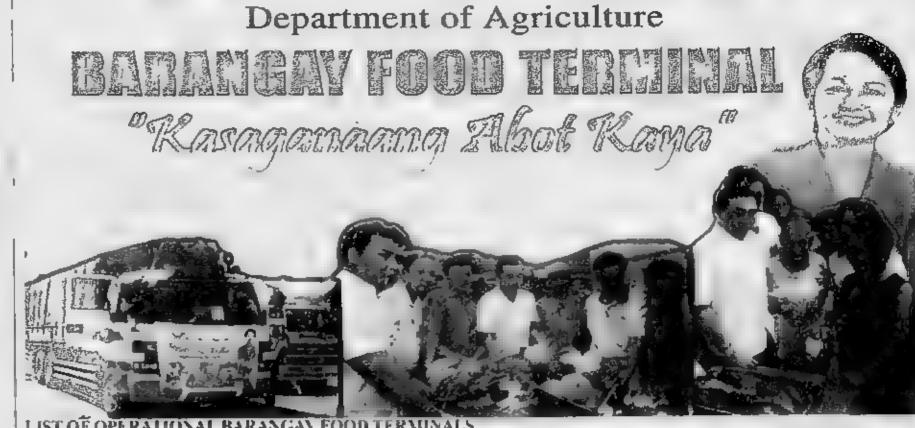
"But the only way to be sure is to go there, search for them. We want to be certain that they actually live there and they were not just passing by. We want to find their nesting areas," Ibañez said

He said the PEF would hold next month an information and education campaign among upland villagers in communities within the Sierra Madre mountain range to help them monitor and protect the eagles.

"We hope to train local people, most of them Dumagat, on simple ways to study and monitor the Philippine eagle. Since they live in the forests and know the forests and its wildlife better, they're the best choice as forest and eagle stewards," he said.

Ibañez said the villagers would be raught how to handle and treat wounded eagles, to observe and document their behavior using specialized data notebooks, to record their track, and to properly identify Philippine eagles.

Cormela Reves, Inquirer Central Luzon



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Across the NATION

50 container vans of smuggled sugar seized

By Carla P. Gomez Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY-THE BUREAU of Customs will auction off 50 container vans of seized smuggled sugar, said Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) administrator Rafael Coscolluela.

Schedulo

or his authorized representative

hebitoy to the affected Endder or Bidders

e-mail: hotolentmo@psalm.gov.ph

HELENA C TOVENTINO

r(*)11- Sept. 15, 2007)

Power Sector Assets and Dabitles Management Corporation

7th Floor Banking Basting, 6755 Ayele Avenue, Maint City Tel (02)8405046 Fax (02)8930699

bureau would require the winning bidder to sell the sugar in the world market, to prevent their entry into the local market and a decline in local prices of

Coscollueia said that Customs Commissioner Napoleon

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Delivery and Installation of Bar Code Scanner/Printer and

Biometric Finger Scanner For PSALM Corporation

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation, through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the lotal sum of THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS OREY (Php.300,000 00) being the Approved.

Budget for the Contract (ASC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply, Delivery, Installation of Bur Code Scansos/Profer and Biometric Finger Scanner for PSALM Corporation.

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply

Delivery Installation of Bar Code Scanner/Printer and Biometric Finger Scanner for PSALM Corporation. The descriptor

Bidding will be conducted through open compatitive hitching procedures using non-discretionary passiful criteria its specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and is restricted to Fatono citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to

citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country file laws or agulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to R.A. 5163. Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will

be opened. The process for the eligibitity check is described in Section II of the Bidding Occurrents. ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEOULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finely

determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and finantial requirements of the project. The contract shall from be awarded to the Lovest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address before and upon-payment of a nonrefundable line in the amount of ONE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (PhP1,000 60). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder.

The Power Sector Assets and Limbities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10 00 AM at the 6" Floor Bardoner Building, 6756 Ayata Avenue, Makati City

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007, 10 00 AM, All

Bids must be eccompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC). Bank guarantee (1 ½% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2 ½% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted

Bid opening shall be on 08 October 2007 at 10 15 AM at the 6" floor Bankmer Suiting, 6755 Ayala Avenue, Maket

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid. to annul the building process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to corporat award, without thereby incurring any

City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend

during the post-qualification procedure. Buts must cover all the items indicated in the Building Documents

and inspect the Bidding Occuments at the address given below from 9.00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday to Foday

each of the 50 container vans has an average of 500 bags.

With sugar selling at about P450 per 50-kilogram bag in the world market, the value of sugar up for auction is estimated at P11.5 million, he said

"If this seized sugar were to land, he added.

Budget for the Contract

Php60,000-00

Ph-240 000 00

Pho309.000.00

Coscolluela said the customs Morales informed the SRA that enter the domestic market, it would directly displace the domestic refined sugar," Coscolluela said

> The 50 container vans that were abandoned in the Port of Manila came in from Taiwan but the sugar came from That-

The Bureau of Customs will hold the auction in the presence of the SRA, he said.

Coscolluela said he discussed with Morales the concern of the sugar industry over the smuggling of sugar.

In turn, Morales agreed to deputize the SRA administrator

and his designated representatives as customs agents in monitoring the ports of entry of smuggled sugar.

To be monitored heavily were the container ports in Manila. Subic, Cebu and Davao, he said.

"We would like to put in place a monitoring team that will

make sure that we can stop misdeclared sugar brought in through containers," Coscolluela said

However, he cited the need for funding to support the sugar anti-smuggling task group

Cosco luela said he would discuss this with members of the Philippine Sugar Alhance, which is composed of sugar planters and traders

"We have a meeting this week and we'll see what we can come up with as far as logistical and personnel requirements are concerned." he said

The entry of smuggled sugar appeared to be the reason there has been a continuing drop in withdrawals of local refined sugar for the past four years, Coscolluela said.

He said the smuggled sugar would be hidden in container vans that have other cargo, such as electronic products and parts from Taiwan

Coscolluela a.so noted that there could be possible "co.lusion" but he did not name those

POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Procurement of Video, Digital and DSLR Cameras The Power Sector Assets and Lephities Management Corporation. Brough its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget Intende to apply the total sum of TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Php270.000 00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments and in the contract for the following Producement of Vision Digital and DSLR

Cameras for PSALM Corporation Quantity Unit of Approved Budget for the Contract 75 000 00 Digital Single Lens Reflex (DSLR) Camera 100

Uell

(59d) HELENA C. TOLENTINO

BAC Charperson

75,000,00

270,000 00

Bilds received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bild opening

Digital Camera

Total

- The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now mixtes Bids from eighble Bidders for the Procurement of Video, Digital and DSLR Cameras for PSAUM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents. TB
- 3. Bidding will be conflucted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary passifall criteria as specified in the inquiementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of R A 9184, and is restricted to Frightin observable proprietorships, urganizations with at least study percent (60%) interest or odistanding capital stock belonging to observe of the Philippines, and to observe or organizations of a country the taws or regulations of which great similar rights or privileges to Frightin observe, pursuant to R A 5183. Only Brds from Bidders who pass the adjective check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section it of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) PER SCHEDULE shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine dissportavimess of the bid to technique and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be available to the Lowest Calculates and Responsive Bidder (LCRI) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the denist indicated in the Birching Documents. the post-qualification procedure. But must cover all the dems indicated in the Building Documents
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Luibities Management Corporation and respect the Bidding Documents at the editress given below from 9 90 AM to 5:00 PM. Monday to Finday
- A complete set of Sicking Occurrents may be purchased by reterested Belders from the address below and upon payment of a noncellundable fee in the amount of TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNGRED PE SOS ONLY (Pap 1 000 00). The meeted of payment will be either cash or check. The Belding Occurrents shall be received personally by the prospective fieldler. or his authorized representative
- The Power Sector Assets and Lithilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open by all interested parties on 26 September 2007 at 10 00 AM at the 8" Floor Bentones Busting, 8756 Ayalia Avenue, Makeb City
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be detivered to the address below on or before 05 October 2007, 10.00 AM, AB Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check, assispance before of credit, 1% of the ABC), Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) or Surety Bond (2.5% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on 06 October 2007 at 10 15 AM at the 6* floor, Sentimer Suiting, 6756 Ayata Avenue, Maketi Cby Sixts will be opened in the presence of the Bidders representatives who choose to attend
- The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any field to annual the bidding process, and to reject all fluts at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the

er Sector Assets and Liabèles Management Corporation RELENA C. TOLENTINO Tel (02)8405046 Fax (02)8930699 nat hololeneno@psetm.gov.ph

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INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Rolando B. Fernandez

Nanay Rosa's patriotic night

By Elizabeth Lolarga Contributor

T'S A PATRIOTIC EVENING," A smiling businessman Oscar Pacis said at the conclusion of the concert marking the birth centenary of one of the University of Baguio's (UB) founders, the late Rosa Castillo Bautista, at the Baguio Country Club on Sept. 2.

Jerry Dadap, composer, arranger and conductor of Andres Bonifacio Choir, had just led the audience and the combined vo-

DAYTOY TI **AMIANAN**

cal strength of his group and the UB Voices Chorale in a rousing rendition in the ballroom of Constantino de Guzman's "Bayan Ko" and Francisco Santiago's "Pilipinas Kong Mahal '

While the 20-plus choral numbers were sung, images of and text about the woman the community called Nanay Rosa were flashed onscreen.

Originally from Pateros (then part of Rizal). Bautista, a Philippine Normal School graduate, married her gangmate Fernando in 1938 and settled with their small family in Baguio before the war broke

When the rubble of war was cleared, they put up the UB's forerunner, Baguio Tech and Commercial Institute, starting out with just eight typewriters.

Her cousin Rosario Castillo Raymundo, former UB home economics dean, recalled that Nanay Rosa's favorite expression when she chanced upon dust in a classroom was: "Is that your standard for cleanliness?"

Raymundo said the older woman was also prone to express her dismay over teachers who did not use their heads. She would say, "If there was only a medicine that would give a person common sense, I would buy it no matter what the cost and I would give it free to teachers who lack it."

She could not abide with the answer "I don't know." Raymundo said that to say so meant to Nanay that "the person did not care about anything at all "

And yet she was the court of last recourse for many a UB teacher and employee. According to the souvenir distributed during the program, people borrowed money from her, a practice that became popular in the university, but as treasurer, she did not collect any interest.

In her last years, she inscribed in her last will and testament: "To make up for the sins of my youth and the sins of omission of my later years, I wish that P100,000 of my inherstance be used to pay for Masses singly said for me immediately upon my death."

She asked her son Gil, who went on to become UB president, to carry out her wish She died in 1987 with her head on her husband's chest.

Elusive Cordillera autonomy

By Maurice Malanes La Trundad, Benguet

HEY DID NOT BEAT GONGS and dance the tadek on Sept. 13 when they commemorated the 21st anniversary of the first peace agreement in the country signed between an armed group and the government under then President Corazon Agumo.

Instead, surviving leaders and members of the Cordillera People's Liberation Army (CPLA) and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) sat down with government officials in a "peace and development forum" and reflected on the ultimate aim of what is now known as the Mt. Data Peace Accord of 1986.

That aim was regional autonomy. Although it remains a dream, it has become the cause of those who pushed for the accord.

They still consider autonomy or self-rule, especially in terms of managing and using the region's land and resources, as the path to peace and development that can check a long history of neglect.

That dream was the desire of the late CPLA chief, Fr. Conrado Balweg, and of his followers when they forged the pact with Aquino.

At that time, the Aquino administration, which promised "democratic space" after strongman Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in a civilian-backed military revolt in February 1986, provided an auspicious opportunity for peace making.

Talking peace

During the signing of the accord in Mt. Data in Bauko, Mt. Province, "we, in a way, taught the national government how to talk peace," Gabino Ganggangan, CBA secretary general, told the well-attended forum in La Trinidad, Benguet

Former President Fidel Ramos himself acknowledged that the government learned a lot from the Cordillera's peace initiative," said Ganggangan.

Unlike other armed groups, the CPLA immediately made peace with the government after it was formed in 1986, when its pioneers led by Balweg broke up with comrades in the New People's Army due to political and ideological differences.

"To set the record straight, those of us who joined the NPA [during Marcos' martial law regime] did not fight for communism. We fought mainly for our ancestral lands and resources," Ganggangan said.

He cited how under Marcos, wide swaths of forest and rice lands in Abra, Mt. Province, Kalinga and Apayao were threatened by Cellophil Resources Corp., a paper mill owned by a Marcos crony, and by the planned series of World Bank-funded dams in the Chico River.

Through Marcos' regionalization law in 1972, the provinces of what is now the Cordillera were politically divided. Benguet, Mt. Province and Abra became part of Region 1 (Ilocos) and Ifugao, Kalinga and Apayao belonged to Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).



BONTOC women dance during the celebration of Bontoc's 99th Foundation Day. Their people have been aspiring for Cordillera autonomy.

ÉV ESPIRITO

Self-rule goal not yet lost on the

people

This setup, according to Ganggangan, was aimed at "dismembering" the Cordillera, which was regarded as a vital resource base for the national government.

After the separation of the provinces, Marcos' controversial development programs followed and pushed the likes of Balweg to join the NPA

The division of the Cordillera and Marcos' "development" programs led to the "one region, one people" battle cry of Balweg and other igorot activists.

This battle cry was the seed of what is now called Kaigorotan consciousness and the dream for regional autonomy," said

The desire soon found its way into the peace agreement that Balweg signed with Aquino. To fulfill her pledge to give flesh to the accord, Aquino signed Executive Order No. 220 on July 15, 1987, which gave birth to the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The CAR was established in preparation

for its autonomous status. Unfortunately, the Cordillera electorate rejected two proposed autonomy laws in two plebiscites—on Jan. 30, 1990 and on March 7, 1998.

But advocates, including Balweg's followers and those in government, maintain that the rejection of the proposed laws d.d. not mean the death of autonomy itself

Juan Ngalob, National Economic and Development Authority regional director, cited lack of information-if not misinformation-for the losses

Kabayan (Benguet) Mayor Ernesto Matuday, who joined the peace and development forum in Baguio City, agreed

During the past campaigns before the plebiscites, "I heard that some people came over to my town and butchered a pig but they never informed us about the benefits of regional autonomy," said Matuday.

"Another reason [for the rejection] was public distrust of some politicians who were already positioning themselves if the autonomous region was created," said Ngalob, chair of the Regional Development Council (RDC) which is now preparing the ground for another campaign

Actually just a few steps away, autonomy can still be achieved through a "more scientific approach," Ngalob said

He cited a tedious poll survey which the RDC would undertake to determine the reasons the electorates had voted against autonomy. Campaign materials will be prepared based on the survey results, he said.

"Let us take our steps slowly but surely," said Ngalob. "If the people of Quebec (in Canada) are still not giving up hope in their cause for independence (which began shortly after World War II), why should we easily give up our dream for autonomy after 21 years?"

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POWER SECTOR ASSETS & LIABILITIES MANAGEMENT CORPORATION

Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Server, Bandwidth Manager and Hard Drive For xSeries Server for PSALM Corporation

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation through its 2007 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the total sum of TWO MILLION SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (Phip2 750,000 00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the following Supply. Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Sever, Bandwith Manager and Hard Drive for Xenes. Server for PSALM Corporation

Schedule	Description	Quantity	Unit of	Approved Budget
			Measuri	for the Contract
	Server	4	Units	Php 1,800 000 00
H	Bandweth Manager	1	Loi	Php 450 000 00
M	Hard Drive for aSemid	100	Pes	Php 540 000 00
	Php: 2,799,000.00			

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at 9id opening

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Suppl Delivery Installation and Commissioning of Server Bandwidth Manager and Hant Drive for a Server for PSALM Corporation. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Batting Documents, ITS

3 Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using nan-discretionary pass/fail chieria as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (RRR-A) of R.A. 9184, and it restrained to hipping catabras' sate proprietorships, organizations with at least suby percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to cazers of the Philippines and to observe or organizations of a country the taws or regulations of which grant statistic rights or privileges to Fithern observe pursuant to R.A. 5183. Only Bids from Bidders with pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility of the process of the eligibility determines as posteriorized and for the contract and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRS) PER SCHEDULE who was determined as such thinhigh the most-orealization procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents.

the post-qualification procedure. Bids must cover all the items indicated in the Bidding Documents Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Power Sector Assets and Liabition Management Corporation and support the Bidding Documents of the address given below from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM, Monday to Finday

5 A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by effected Bidders from the address below and upon calyment of a nonretundable les in the amount of TWO THOLISANO FIVE HUNDRED PESOS ONLY (PhP2,500 00). The method of payment will be either cash or check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder. or his authorized representative

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation will hold a Pre-Bid Contenence open to all interested parties on 26 September 2007 of 10 00 AM at the 6° Floor Sentence Building, 6756 Ayata Avenue, Makab Cay

Bids and eligibility requirements much be delivered to the address below on or before 08 October 2007 40 00 Alit All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, cashier's check irrevocable letter of credit (1% of the ABC). Bank guarantee (1 %% of ABC) or Surely Bond (2 %% of the ABC). Late Bids shall not be accepted

8. Bid opening shall be on 08 October 2007 at 10 15 AM at the 6º floor. Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayata Avenue, Makati City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Biddent representatives who choose to effend The Power Sector Assets and Liebásies Management Corporation reserves the right to accept or reject any Bird to annually be birding process, and to reject all Birds at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the

Power Sector Assets and Jahilities Management Corporation HELENA G. TOLENTINO 7th Floor Bankmer Building, 6756 Ayesa Awerina, Makati Cay Tel (02)8405046 Faix (02)8930699

affected Bidder or Bidders

(Sgd.) HELENA C. TOLENTINO

and agents SCHEDULE OF OTHER SEMINARS & ACTIVITIES . . SEPTEMBER 28, FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24, WEDNESDAY SEMINAR ROOM 1 SEMINAR ROOM 1 Versackey in Flexible Converting by TPT International Corporate Social Responsibility: Doing Well by Doing 01 80pm 01 45b at Grevure lists by TPT International R-Weer by American Tech., Inc. 02:00pm 02:45pm VOIP for your Business by Virtual Route 62 00mm. 12 45mm Hershen Innovative Reckaging (weldspools cities, and dosures) by Rettenhäuser German Trading Corp. Air Demand Analysis: Know your Compressed Air Consumption by Kaeser Kompressorets 03.00e m 03.45e m 83 88s on 183 66s on High Impact Presentation by Galdien Philis. KRF Application on ROHS & Pleting Thickness by ArrowTech Int'l Co. OLDDp.m - 01 45e.m Di Cilpan, Di Sipan Newest Trends in Octobs and Industries Surgers for Object. Quy Inspection & Process Monitoring using Machine 05 (Kp. et. | 05-65) m. Vision by Festo Inc. SEMINAR ROOM 2 Working Beyond the Limits of Conventional Microscope Olympus Laser Scanning, Nacroscope and Analysis Software by QES Asia Pacific Sdn. Bhd. Trading Corp. SEMINAR ROOM 2 11 Obnus 11 45 4 Advance Application of Delta Products, Drive, Hotton, Control & PLC's by DAC Industrial D1920 im - 81-45p in FDIn (Feeding, Dowing, Moong) Material Handling Solutions by Hadenhauser German Trading Corp. ADSIDIT: At Parlician by Simplex Machinery DESCRIPTION OF STREET Arrand Liquid Counting Tech Particle Newturing Systems by Q-Trade Corp Restativing CAD with Punctional Disagn. From 20 to 30 by CDM Membrane Depassifier Tech by Q-Trade Corp. 07 000 m 123 450 m Agka Screen Printer 'The Key to Solder Paste Printing Clearycom Performance Testing Protects by Q-Trade Corp. 04 00p or - 04 45p or -Process by Joro Quantum Tech. Advance Application of Belts Products, Drive, Motion, Control & PLC's by OAC Industrial SEMINAR ROOM S 05-90p m. -05-45p m. New Generation ASS Analyzer for Alloy & ROHS by Superinstone Asia-Tech 97 90p.m 92 45 93 90pm El 40 0100pm 8508

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JDV III very much JDV son; set to marry Dec.

of adulation for the Chief Execu-

Joey, looking smart in a business suit, smiled and said he might try "madam President" instead.

MBA in finance

De Venecia III, who is separated from his first wife and has a 15-yearold son, has an accounting degree from the American University in Washington. He tater earned an MBA in finance at Fordham University in New

He was an auditor for three years at Arthur Andersen & Co., one of the biggest accounting firms in the United States, before he returned to Manila and served as corporate finance consultant of its respected Philippine counterpart, SGV & Co.

Joey is one of four children of Speaker De Venecia with his first wife Victoria Perez. His mother is the daughter of former Speaker Eugenio

He's set to marry in December.

The young De Venecia has at one time or other been drawn in the political wars his father had waged

During the Speaker's campaign for the presidency in 1998, the son's Muln-Media Telephony Inc. was accused of receiving preferential treatment from the National Telecommu-

nications Commission in the bidding for cellular phone services.

The businessman dismissed the charges as nothing more than a political smear campaign directed at his fa-

During yesterday's hearing, De Venecia III admitted a strain had developed in his relationship with his father as a result of his revelations on the broadband deal.

Asked by Sen. Jinggoy Estrada if he will change his position on the ZTE deal if the Palace allies in the House of Representatives oust the speaker.

Independent of each other

"My father and I are independent of each other," said the young De Vene-

"But he is Speaker of the House. He is allied with the President. He is president of Lakas (the pro-administration

"If there is any movement against him, then I think that with all the help he has given to this administration and if they try to unseat him then I think that's the worst thing that they could do to a man who has been loyal, who has been trying to follow his vision to improve the

"I will not retract on any statement I've made. I expect to be also invited in the House for an investigation so I will say the same thing there as I said



ADMIRED and congratulated for his boldness, the young De Venecia rues that he has had to pay a price for being forthcoming, including a "strained" relationship with his father and namesake, Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

here," said De Venecia III.

'He is his own man'

De Venecia begged off from giving interviews on yesterday's hearing, preferring that his son enjoy Andy Warhol's so-called 15 minutes of

Instead, the Speaker released a statement vouching for his son's "own moral principles."

"He is his own man, strong enough to stand up for them," De Venecia said

He also said that it was incumbent upon both his son and the President's husband Jose M.guel Arroyo to be "transparent to our people" in the controversial contract.

"My son appeared before the joint Senate hearings in his own right as a stockholder of Amsterdam Holdings Inc., "De Venecia said in his one-page

"He has assured full responsibility before the joint committees for his actions and revelations, which he provided under oath," he added.

De Venecia said it will now be up to the Senate if his son, a major stockholder of AHI that bid for the NBN contract, was telling the truth in raising the allegations against Mr Ar-

"The people have the right to know the truth, nothing less," De Venecia With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquires Research

GMA's House allies in disarray; kin to the defense

sor said. "The congressmen are loyal to both the President and the Speaker."

Testifying before the Senate blue ribbon committee, De Venecia, the Speaker's son, named Arroyo as the "mystery man" who told him to back off the National Broadband Network (NBN) project that would provide an Internet connection to all government offices (Story on this page.)

aDe Venecia's company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc., had wanted to implement the projett, but the Chinese firm, ZTE Corp., eventually bagged the

"I don't know how it will af- NBN deal or any other matter. fect the political setup. I don't know if the father (Speaker Jose de Venema) knows what the son is doing," Garcia said.

A statement from the Speaket's office said the charges had no effect on the stability of the administration coalition in the House or its "resolve" to enact priority measures identified in the Legislative-Executive Development Advisory Council.

The elder De Venecia himself begged off from further commenting and wanted his son to be"the news, not him," according to one of his staff members. (\$ee story on Page A1.)

Camarines Sur Rep. Lass Villafuerte, Kampi president, refused to comment. He said he Would first await developments

in the coming days.

Negros Occidental Rep. Ignacio "Iggy" Arroyo, the President's brother-in-law, was similarly guarded. "Let's just watch out for it," he told the Inquirer

But later, in a separate interview with the Inquirer in Bacolod City, Iggy said: Toey de Venecia has gone off his rocker. My brother is innocent."

"It's not true. It's not in my brott. 's character to threaten anyone. He's being made the fall guy here again. I don't know what's with Joey de Venecia,"

He said his brother had never NBN project. met with De Venecia on the

He also said his brother was on proceed to the United States or Europe.

"But he does not run away from a fight. When he comes back he will face his accusers,* Iggy said.

The President's eldest child, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, said it was De Venecia who could be principally liable under the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act for bidding on a government project despite his being the Speaker's son.

this project for two things," Mikey said

For one, he cited the law that says that "no relative of the President, the Vice President, supported the Speaker.

the Senate President or the Speaker up to the fourth degree of consanguinity should be involved in a government pro-

For a second reason, he said: "There is no contract. There have been many budget hearings and there was not even one mention [of allocations being made for payment of the broadband net-

He said his father might not be liable under the antigraft law because De Venecia himself had said at the Senate inquiry that the President's husband was never involved in the discussions for the the Speaker's son."

No problem with Speaker

Mikey Arroyo also said he did vacation in Hong Kong and might not know if the supposed meeting at which both his father and De Venecia were present had actually

"I really don't know," he said. "I don't know my father's dealings and I am not his spokesman."

He said his concern now was for his father's health in the wake of De Venecia's testimony: "He already had a triple bypass. I'm not sure how this will affect him." Asked if De Venecia's testimo-

ny would affect the administra-T have no knowledge about tion coalition which is anchored on the alliance between Ms Arroyo and the Speaker, Mikey Ar royo said: "No, I don't think so." Iggy said the Arroyos still

"We have no problem with the Speaker," Iggy said, adding that the family's problem was with Joey de Venecia.

Iggy said the coalition leaders should start discussing the controversy because it was starting to affect the adminis-

He also said it pained the family to see the President's husband again being portrayed in a bad-

Said Arroyo's youngest child, Camarines Sur Rep. Dato Arroyo: The First Gentleman can defend himself. Personally, I don't believe

'Smells a plot'

"smells a plot" meant to bring the scandal to the President herself, and to create intrigue between her and Speaker De Venecia.

The political noise has reached very high decibels. Producing that land of noise is very expensive. So where is the money coming from?" asked Santiago, vice chair of the Senate finance committee.

Minority view

However, House Minority Floor Leader Ronaldo Zamora of San Juan said lie hoped the majority coalition would be polarized "in order for our interest for the truth to come out be bet-

still a much larger interest than the fortunes of the majority coalmon," Zamora told the In-QUIRER. Doey de Venecia's revelations are detailed ... and they must be answered."

Garcia said De Venecia's revelations-along with the Senate's revival of the "Hello Garci" controversy involving alleged wiretopped conversations between former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano and Ms Arrovo in the 2004 presidential election—should be seen in the context of the 2010 race to Malacañang. He did not claborate

Both Garcia and Villafuerte In a statement, Sen. Miriam belong to the faction of Kampi Defensor Santiago said she that launched a failed bid to deny Speaker De Venecia a fifth term at the start of the 14th Congress.

Speaker deared

Among the Speaker's leading campaigners then was Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, chair of Kampi. Iggy Arroyo, along with his nephews Mikey and Dato, eventually threw their support behind the elder De

"Certainly, what the son is doing is not doing any good to Malacañang and to the friends of the President," Garcia said

Iggy Arroyo said he was convinced that the Speaker "had nothing to do" with his son's de-

"I hope they see that there is disson to come out and implicate the First Gentleman

> "I know he (Speaker) is not behind this," he said, "(but) I hope he would enlighten his

Garcia said he was wondering about the manner by which the younger De Venecia had exposed alleged irregularities in the NBN deal, culminating in the allegation that the President's husband had a role in it

"He could have immediately mentioned the name," he said, "but there was a buildup, It seemed that he was trying to build excitement. Whether that was part of the plan, I don't know," the Kampi leader said.

Downplay

Davao Rep. Prospero Nograles, another Malacañang ally belonging to the Speaker's camp, downplayed the allegation, citing young De Venecia's account that Mike Arroyo had threatened him into withdrawing his bid for the lucrative broadband project.

In his testimony, De Venecia said the First Gentleman had told him to "back off" while pointing a finger at him about "two inches from his nose."

"I took it to mean something like 'do not rock the boat anymore because it's already finished," Nograles said. With a report from Carla Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Brave kidney donor was afraid of needle

nay nearly back out of the transplant operation.

Thus quipped the longtime driver of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez as he recounted to the INQUIRER yesterday what he went through when he decided to donate a kidney to his boss.

It wasn't the first time that their lives were on the edge.

Gonzalez and Gunay were also together in June 1991 when they were caught by heavy ashfall during Mt. Pinatubo's eruption that nearly buried their car.

Interviewed in his room at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, the 50-year-old Gunay said the physical checkup he went through as part of the preparations for the transplant was a greater ordeal than the operation itself.

Extensive checkup

He said an extensive checkup was necessary before having his kidney removed and that he was briefed about the process that he would have to go through.

,"Being jabbed with needles was more painful than the operation," Guray said, pointing to the areas in his arms where the needles had gone through.

He further joked. "Having your moth pulled out is more painful." Waking up from the opera-

tion with one of his kidneys gone, Gunay said he felt some pain from the surgical wound but was generally fine.

He said he did not feel as if anything was missing from his body and he was able to move around his room right next to Gonzalez's, after being brought there from the recovery section.

Secret from the family

Gonzalez's driver of 28 years said he kept his decision to donate his kidney a secret from his family—but it did not take them long to figure out.

"I did not want them to worry," Guray said, speaking in Filipino. "If I had told them, they would have tried to dissuade me and I might have agreed with them."

It was only after the operation was scheduled that he told his wife, Mona Lisa, but he

asked her to tell no one else. "She understood why and was proud that I was saving the

Battling Pinatubo ashfall

secretary's life," Gunay said.

The transplant took place on Friday, Gonzalez is already out

Will the President keep Gonzalez?

Macapagal-Arroyo is keeping people guessing about whether she will let go of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

the Dakak resort here where she spent the night, Ms Arroyo said she was happy that Gonzalez, 76, had a successful kidney transplant operation.

For now, Ms Arroyo said all she wanted was for Gonzalez to rest "and not think of any

of intensive care and is being

Gunay was discharged yester-

It isn't unusual for Gunay to

The two also battled through

ashfall from Mt. Pinatubo in

1991. They were on their way

to Zambales, the province of

Gonzalez's wife, Pacita, when

share life-threatening experi-

day from the hospital but he said

he wanted to return to the NKTI

to join the watch over his boss.

ences with Gonzalez.

watched for signs of rejection.

DAPITAN CITY PRESIDENT problems in the Department of Justice." She brushed off talk that

her staunch ally might retire. "We'll assess. Anyway he's After a dinner Monday at on leave for one month, so we'll assess after one month," Ms Arroyo told reporters.

The Department of Justice is being run by Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera, whom Ms Arroyo has designated as acting secretary.

Christine O. Avendano

turies of slumber.

Caught by the eruption, they slept in their car on the road and saw the vehicle's roof cave in and its wheels get partly buried in ash.

Same blood type

"I had to dig out the car, otherwise he (Gonzalez) wouldn't have been able to get out. Even the wheels were buried in ash."

In all his years as a driver he said he had never placed his ling kidney, Pinatubo blew up after cen-

employer's life at risk, never having been in an accident.

When Gonzalez was hospitalized last month for bleeding ulcers, who else but Gunay donat ed blood for Gonzalez. They have the same blood type, B.

When love bloomed

Gunay said that Mona Lisa had likewise served in the Gonzalez household and that it was in the Gonzalez house where they first met-and fell in love.

The other members of the Gunay clan found out about his kidney donation only after news broke out that the secretary had had a transplant and that he was the donor.

They were happy that I was able to help the man who is like a parent to me," Gunay said. "The secretary and I have been together far longer than I and my wife have been together."

No money involved

Gunay is willing to drive again for Gonzalez. He said his doctors told him he would be able to resume his normal life although he would have to limit his drinking to "pa shot-shot na lang (just a few shots)" since he had to closely warch his remain-

Gunay said he did not ask for payment in return for his act but was very happy about Iloilo Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr.'s statement that his family would be cared for

Gunay, one of seven children in his family, used to be a jeepney driver in Ilollo when he decided to work for Gonzalez in Manila. The Gonzalezes were neighbors of his parents in Iloilo, he said.

Since becoming Gonzalez's driver, Gunay has never worked in another job.

His wife, Mona Lisa, and their three daughters (not four as earlier reported)-Nacia Marie,14; Cleofe Rose, 10; and Liza, 8-live in Le Castiliana, Bacolod City.

Pleasure of giving

Gunay goes to Bacolod about twice a year, with his Christmases usually spent with the Gonzalezes in Manila. He goes to his family for the New Year's Day celebration.

Gonzalez's grandchildren call him "Lole Muroy."

There is pleasure in giving, even if it means losing one of your vital organs, Gunay said.

"When there is someone in need, don't deny them your help. It feels good to help other people," he said.

UN, WB INITIATIVE

No safe haven for corrupt leaders' stolen assets

UNITED NATIONS-THE UNITed Nations and the Worki Bank on Monday launched an initiative to make it easier for governments in developing countries to recover stolen assets that corrupt leaders have stashed in rich countries at the rate of \$40 bilhon a year.

The Stolen Asset Recovery (StAR) initiative aims to encourage rich countries to return the loot and for developing countries to properly invest the recovered funds in antipoverty programs.

"There should be no safe haven for people who steal from the poor," World Bank president Robert Zoellick said in presenting the plan with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

Until now, developing countries have encountered legal and other obstacles in the tracing and recovering looted funds.

It took the Philippines, for example, 18 years to repatriate \$624 million stashed by deposed dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a Swiss bank account. Last year, Nigeria ended a five-year battle to recover \$500 mülion parked in a Swiss bank by former dictator

have siphoned off as much as \$5 billion from Nigeria in just five

At present, the World Bank is in the early stages of working with Haiti to recover funds stolen by Jean-Claude Duvaker, or Baby Doc, who succeeded his father, Francois, as the ruler of Haiti in 1971.

Flow of criminal proceeds

The World Bank estimates that cross-border flow of global proceeds from criminal activities, corruption and tax evasion ranges from \$1 trillion to \$1.6

The problem of stolen assets is widespread but most acute in Africa, where an estimated 25 percent of the gross national product of states is lost to corruption at the cost of about \$148 billion every year, according to Zoellick.

He said that the recovery of even a small portion of the stolen funds could bankroll much-needed social programs.

Every \$100 million recovered, for instance, could pay for the full immunization of 4 mil-

holds, or finance for the treatment for a year for more than 600,000 people afflicted with HIV/AIDS

The StAR initiative is being developed in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, whose executive director, Antonio Maria Costa, said the program's launch came at a time when the sophistication of financial transactions made recovery an increasingly complex process requiring expert assis-

The new system will work to build the capacity of developing countries to track stolen money going overseas and to emphasize ways that financial centers can better detect and deter money laundering.

Not developing nations' issue

This is not just a developingcountry issue because the funds inevitably end up in developed counmes," Danny Leipziger, the World Bank vice president for poverty reduction and economic management, told a briefing before the launch of the StAR mutiative.

lion children, provide water StAR initiative would improve countries. The signatories are

poor countries over the recovery of stolen assets.

Lespziger said the World Bank would also bring pressure on financial centers in developed nations to adopt "the highest standards of behavior in terms of money laundering."

These financial centers should also increase the transparency and adopt best-practices for accepting funds from outside their borders, Zoellick added.

"To be successful we have to get the attention of the developed countries and make sure they understand the gravity of the situation," he said

"There have been changes in the behavior of some like the Swiss, who understand that it's not good for the reputation of major financial institutions, to say nothing of countries, to be associated with billions of dollars of stolen funds from corrupt leaders in poor countries."

The World Bank chief is hoping the StAR initiative will encourage more countries to ratify the UN Convention Against Corruption, a 2005 anticorrup-Zoellick said he hoped the non treaty ratified by only 92

Sani Abacha, who is believed to connection to 250,000 house- cooperation between rich and obliged to return stolen assets to the country from which it was looted.

Among the Group of Eight industrialized nations, only Canada, Germany, Italy and Japan have not ratified the pact. Switzerland, Ireland and Luxembourg are among the member states of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) which are considered to be offshore banking centers but have not

ratified the UN convention. Zoellick said he knew of no opposition by countries who had not yet ratified the treaty, adding that the delay had more to do with passing legislation

Strong deterrent

UN's Ban Ki-moon told the news conference the StAR initiative would ensure looted assets were returned to their rightful owners

*Together let us make the initiative into a strong deterrent for those who may be tempted to steal public funds and let as use it to strengthen the capacity of governments to improve the lives of millions of people," he

Zoellick said the StAR initiative was part of the World Bank's overall strategy to fight corruption in developing coun-

The bank will provide financial and technical assistance to strengthen institutions in developing countries and to ensure domestic laws complied with the UN anticorruption treaty.

Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, the former Nigerian finance minister who oversaw the return of \$500 million to her country from Switzerland, said the StAR initiative marked a first step toward "rebalancing" responsibilities in the fight against corruption.

No safe haven

"Developing countries need to fight corruption and stem the flow of illicit funds, and developed countries must make sure there is no safe haven for those funds in their countries," Okonio-lweala said.

"If the two sides cooperate, the people who are corrupt will know that any money that goes out will be sent back to the country from which it came." Reports from Reuters, AFP and New York Times News Service

FG foes not surprised; karma, says Erap son

From page Al

convicted Joseph Estrada, said the latest controversy involving the Arroyos was a result of karma

Nueva Vizcaya Rep. Carlos Padulin said it was not unexpected that Arroyo was named by Jose "Joey" de Venecia III in yesterday's inquiry at the Senate as the "mystery man" who had threateningly told him to back off the broadband project

Padilla, who had earlier delivered a privilege speech questioning the NBN deal cornered by China's ZTE Corp., said Arroyo's name cropped up when he was doing research on the deal. But he did not name Arroyo in his speech because "It was still a long shot at that time,"

"When De Venecia started talking about a 'mystery man.' I became even more suspicious," Padilla said

De Venecia, son and namesake of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, owns Amsterdam Holdings Inc., one of the companies that had expressed interest in the NBN project.

That reputation

"I expected it. He has that reputation," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casino said of Arroyo, who survived a risky heart operation in April and is under instruction from his doctors to avoid controversies and other occasions of stress.

Casiño said any inquiry into the NBN deal would ultimately reach the President, who had witnessed the signing of a contract with ZTE in Boso. China

"If the First Gentleman is the 'mystery man,' it doesn't take much to conclude who the mystery woman is," Casiño said, "Above all, she should be held accountable for

the NBN deal." Rep Akbayan . Risa Hontiveros said the Arroyo administration was "rich with onerous deals."

"The First Gentleman should return and answer the charges," she said in a press conference.

Hontiveros said De Venecia's testimony at the Senate strengthened impeachment case that the minonty bloc was building against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. De Venecia had

earlier accused Abalos of brokering the NBN deal with the Chinese firm and attempting to bribe him to

Pi6B at least

In the reckoning of Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza, the scandals purportedly involving the President's husband are now worth at least P16 bil-

"This is not the first time that Mr. Arroyo's name cropped up in a multibillion[-peso] scandal since Mrs. Arroyo became President," Maza said in a statement

"This is hardly coincidence. Mr. Arroyo is now worth P16-P17 bilhon in scandals," she said

Maza observed that Arroyo had also been accused of laundering P321 million and depositing the bayan Special Division. amount under the name "Jose Pinow Negros Occidental Rep. Ignaclo "Iggy" Arroyo.)

The President's husband was also linked to the P728 million fertilizer fund scam whose alleged architect was ex-Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante, Maza noted.

She added that Arroyo was simi- vindicated," he said larly implicated in the irregular construction of the President Diosdado Macapagai Avenue, and was named as among the recipients of "jueteng" payoffs.

Arroyo has denied these allega-

What they deserve

Mayor Ejercito said the controversies hounding Arroyo and his wife were proof that those who committed wrongdoing would eventually get what they deserve.

"All these scandals coming out are karma on GMA and her cohorts," Ejercito said aimost a week after his father, ousted President Estrada, was convicted of plunder on two counts by the Sandigan-

"I never thought karma dal." (The account was later come so soon," he said, adding that claimed by his younger brother, these scandals showed the Arroyo administration as the worst

> Ejercito said De Venecia's testimony on the NBN deal would pave the way for the downfall of the Arroyo administration and the eventual vindication of his father

"As I have said, it's just a matter of time for President Estrada to be

Arroyo should explain

Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco, an administranon lawmaker, said Arroyo should shed light on the part he played in the NBN deal.

"That's a very serious matter and I think the First Gentleman owes the Filipino people an explanation," Cuenco said

He said he knew the young De Venecia as a good person, and pointed out that the lat- Napallacan in Cebu City

ter had made his testimony at the Senate under oath

"Though it's unfair to make a judgment, it's either Joey de Venecia is not telling the truth or the other party is lying," Chenco said, adding:

That's why the First Gentleman must see to it that he will give a credible answer to avoid letting the issue affect the administration of President Arroyo." With reports from Kristine L. Alave in Manila; Jhunnex

Republic of the Philippines DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT Regional Office No. IV-A 3rd Fir. Andenson 8ldg II, Brgy Parian, Calamba City

September 19, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Telefax Nos (049) 545-0292

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Aken Employment Permit/s

ı	Hama and Address of Company Employer	Helional	5. Pholion -	Chiefren
1	MANILA SPIRITS. NC Agunakio Highway. Palico IV Imus, Cavilin	Mr Naoto Shimura	Consultant	Japaciese
2	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC-SEZ Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavile	Mr Taniguchi Hiroshi	Machine Control Department Manager	Japanese
3	ROHM ELECTRONICS PHILIPPINES, INC. PTC-SEZ Bo. Maduya, Carmona, Cavite	Mr Kezohisa Furusawa	Tr/Dr Production Department Manager	Japanèsa
4	SHINKOZAN CORPORATION Bo. Bancal. Cermona. Cewie	Mr Hajung-Feng Chen	General Manager	Talwanese
5	TOKYO BYOKANE PHILIPPINES CORP. CIP II, Sirgy Puntu, Calamba City	Mr Keun Woo Park	Manager	Korean

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director

PDI-Sept. 19, 20075

(Sgd.) ATTY, RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO HI Regional Director



Home Guaranty Corporation

Office of the President

INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE NEGOTIATED DISPOSITION OF APEC VILLA 9, 10 & 11

The Home Guaranty Corporation (HGC) is inviting all interested parties to submit proposals for the disposition of its "leasehold rights" on the following properties located at Triboa Bay, Subic Freeport Zone, Olongapo City on a "negotiated" retail basis (sale, lease and other similar or variant schemes)

	PROPERTY LOCATION	TYPE	FLOOR AREA	REMARKS
1	APEC Virla No. 9	one storey house	436	fully furnished, vacant
2	APEC Vilia No. 10	two storey house	440	fully furnished, vacant
3	APEC Vica No. 11	two storey house	433	fully furnished, vacant

*Lease Term 50 years

The sale of the properties shall be on an "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis.

Terms of Payment may be in cash or instal ment for outright sale proposal, Offers for lease must indicate the proposed terms of lease including provision

for escatation of lease rate, and For other similar or variant scheme, the proposed terms of sale must be indicated

HGC reserves the right to require additional information from the offeror as it deems necessary to fully understand and evaluate the offer(s)

Interested parties are encouraged to inspect the property before tendering their

Details pertaining to the properties as well as the guidelines for the negotiation can be obtained from the HGC's Asset Management and Disposition Group (AMDG) office located at the 4th Floor of Jade Building, 335 Sen. Git Puyat Avenue, Maketi City from September 17 to 21, 2007 upon payment of a non-

refundable fee of P 5,000.00 The Financia: proposals/offers shall be sealed and dropped at the designated box located at the HGC's AMDG office on September 27, 2007.

For inquiries, please call the Marketing and Sales Department at tel. nos. 896-04-25 & 897-34-18 or visit our office at 4th Floor, Jade Building, 335 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City

THE CORPORATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL OFFERS, TO WAIVE ANY DEFECTS OR TO ACCEPT SUCH OFFER AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE CORPORATION.

> (Sgd.) RAFAEL P. DE LOS SANTOS Vice President Asset Management & Disposition Group

(PDI-Sept. 19 & 26, 2607)



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH inter for Hestin Development - Bo BICOL MEDICAL CENTER BIDS AND AWARDS COMMUTTEE Nago City Telephone Nos (054) 473-89-38 B-rest Address bac becomed@yahoo.com.ph Fax No. (054) 473-05-35

Watelle hitp Rever don gov ph/bmc/index him Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

1 The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER. through General Appropriations Act intends to apply specified sum for the following projects IN Project PROCUMENENT OF VARIOUS MEDICAL GRADE GASES (RE-BID) (AEB No. 2007-10)

Approved Budget for the Control. PESOS TWO INILLION NAME HUNGRED NINETY-RIMS THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED ONLY (PDP 2,986,700,00) Bale of Bid Documents September 19 to 25, 2007 Pre-Bid Conference September 28, 2007 – 9 00 A M BMC Library October 8, 2007 – 9 00 A M BMC Library October 8, 2007 – 9 00 A M BMC Library ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PNP1,509 00)

Approved Budget for the Contract: PERCE ONE HELLION FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DNLY (Phr. 1,400,500.00) Sale of Bid Documents September 28 2007 2 00 P M BMC Library October 8 2007 2 00 P M BMC Library Pie Bio Conference Price of Bid Documents ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (PhP 1,600.00)

b) Project : PROCUREMENT OF VARIOUS IT & OFFICE EQUIPMENT (IAES No. 2017-18)

fille received in quasis of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER mor invites senior Buls from stights States for the shore stated propose. Deliveres of the goods

The description of an eligible bidder is contained in Section (i of the Sidding Documents, ITE The operations of an eagine become in continued in Section is a in in procedure to the conducted financial report of the procedures taking non-descriptionally passeful origins as specified in the imploitments (Richard Registering Regi

Interested Sidders may obtain harber information from SICOL MEDICAL CENTER; and inspect the Sidding Decuments at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 12:00 Noon; 1:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M., masspt weekends and Holidays A complete set of Skiding Documents for the project may be purchased by Interested Skidlers from the address better and upon payment of a non-refundable les as stated above. The method of payment will be in the form of Court. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bridge or be such orange representative.

Bids and alightity requirements study be delivered to the address, date and time stated above. The bids must be apparented by a Bid Security in any of the following forms. In the amount at least equal to and not lower than a percentage of the ABC or an equivalent amount in a treety conventible currency.

(1.8% of ABC) (1.8% of ABC) (2.8% of ABC)

Gooth, certified check, cashier's check, bank shaft or brevecable letter of credit

2 Bank guarantee 3. GBIS Surety Bond Late bets shall not be ecoapled

Bule will be opened in the passence of the Bidders representativals who choose to attend at the address below The BICOL MEDICAL CENTER reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annual the highing pracess and reject all Bids. at any lang poor to contract sweets, well-out thereby incurring any backey to the affected fielder or fix

Control Address **BICCL MEDICAL CENTER** Conception Poquets: Nage Cay Telephone Nos. (034) 473-8938 E-mad Address bac blooknotd@yebes.com.ph Fax No (054) 473-8936 http://www.soluper.at/firmbfinder.htm

JENSY 6, ONG, ND, FPGA

(Sgd.) JENSY S. CNG, MO, PPOA Chemson



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 DID YOU KNOW

MANY streets in Manifa, mostly tocated in Sampaloc district, have been named after characters in No i Me Tangere and El Filbusterismo. Dr Jose P Rizal's novels. Some of these names are Maria Ciara, Crisostomo, Sisa, Basilio, Simoun, Elias and Tiago

Cyrll L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Parents of rape-slay victim OK DNA test

Girl could still be alive, says cop

By Tina G. Santos and Allison W. Lopez

THE PARENTS OF GERALDINE PALMA, THE 7-YEAR-OLD GIRL who was kidnapped and raped, yesterday gave authorities the go-signal to exhume their daughter's body and subject it to a DNA test.

"It's not true. I'm the one who's insured

The police's case against the five suspects

and she was one of my beneficiaries. I never

in the Palma rape-slay case may end up be-

ing weak if the body is not that of the young

said the credibility of the witnesses would

suffer if they had identified the girl in the

Manila Chief Prosecutor Jhosep Lopez

"It's already with the court so it's up to

thought she'd go first," he said

suitcase as Paima

girl's, the city chief prosecutor said.

"This is to erase doubts that it was not my daughter," Gerald, the victim's father, told reporters at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) office. "Who would want to see his child dead? Sana nga hindi na lung st Geraldine yon (I wish it were not Geraldine). I wish I was wrong. But I'm 150 percent sure it was her,"

"I only hope they do it right away because her body's already decomposing and the tests will take at least three weeks," he added.

Gerald and his wife went to the NBI after the Manila Police District (MPD), which is also investigating the case, claimed that the body which was stuffed inside a suitcase found last month in North Harbor, Tondo was not that of their daughter.

Chief Insp. Alejandro Yanquiling, head of the MPD hom.cide division, said he suspected that Geraldine was still alive.

He based his suspicion on the records of St. Paul College, where Geraldine was enrolled, showing that the girl was 3 feet, 10 inches tall. The body inside the surcase measured 4 feet, 2 inches.

According to Yanquiling, a mole on the the victim's back was the Palmas' only basis for saying that the body was that of their daughter's.

Gerald, meanwhile, admitted that he was hurt by Yanquiling's statements.

"It's as if he was saying that I don't know my own child. I know he's just doing his job But why only now? He should have said those things earlier. He's starting the investigation backwards," he said.

Felma, the victim's mother, confirmed that at first, she had doubts that the body in the suitcase was that of her daughter because "the girl's nose was flat."

"But it could have been her and the features also looked different because the body was bloated. They had the same build But it's fine with me if they have her body dug up so that the truth will come out," she

Despite the recent developments in the case, Gerald maintained that what happened was a case of kidnapping.

"I still believe it's still a kidnapping incidnet unless Marites (Ontog, the girl's nanny) shows up and reveals what really happened," he said.

Gerald likewise demed rumors that he had his daughter insured,

UP frat violence forum seeks justice for Mendez

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AN OFFICIAL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, yesterday issued a twin challenge: One to witnesses in the suspected hazing death of public administration student, Cris Anthony Mendez, and the other to members of the fraternity believed to be involved in his death.

"If you really want to help, then tell us. Come clean," lawyer Marvie Leonen, UP vice president for regal affairs, said at a forum on hazing called "Et tu brod? Searching for Justice against Fraternity Violence" held at the UP Law Center.

Most of his statements, however, were directed at the fraternity Mendez was believed to have joined before his death.

"You know who you are," Leonen said.
"You have gotten lawyers but the law cannot help you assuage your consciences."

"If you think you have courage, if you think you have honor, if you think you have integrity, this is your shining moment. Do not escape your moral responsibility," he added, stressing, "If you want to sue the university, bring it on."

Although Leonen did not mention the name of the fraternity, he was obviously referring to Sigma Rho whose officials were recently placed on preventive suspension following Mendez's death. The group has threatened to file a case against the UP if the suspension order is not lifted.

Admitting that there were many legal remedies that those involved in Mendez's death could avail of, Leonen said, "I have two surnames for you: Villanueva and Mendez."

He was referring to Mendez and Marlon

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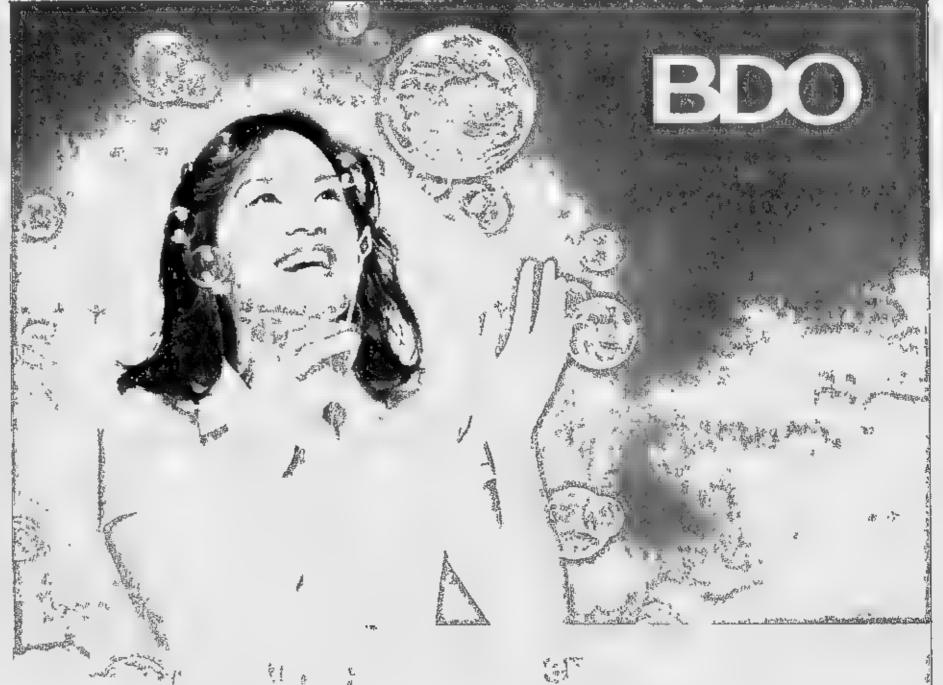
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Lim pushes for repeal of 'allowance ordinance' to dads

By Allison W. Lopez

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO Lim yesterday called the ordinance giving a P3 million "monetary reward" to local officials who had served three consecutive terms "self-serving," and said he would push for its repeal.

"I will write a letter for its repeal because it's not good. It's self-serving, it's for the self-interest of those who approved the law," ium said.

The mayor said he would ask

over P1.6 million each as "initial payment" in 2005 to return the money.

Ordinance No. 8040, enacted by the city council on Dec. 7, 2000, authorized the conferment of an exemplary public service award (Epsa)-consisting of a plaque, retirement and gratuity pay remuneration amounting to at least P3 million—to city officials who had served for three consecutive terms in the same position.

Those qualified for the Epsa

the six councilors who received were the mayor, vice mayor and city councilors.

> So far, only six councilors who served from 1995 to 2004 have benefited from the ordinance: Incumbent Councilors Marlon Lacson, who authored the ordinance; Luciano "Lou" Veloso; Jocelyn Dawis-Asuncion and Monina "Pipay" Silva, the beneficiary of her late husband, former Councilor Hilarion "Pipoy" Silva.

The others are Abraham Cabochan and Julio Logarta Jr.

All six served in the city council for three consecutive terms from 1995 to 2004

However, then supervising city auditor Gabriel Espina said the payment of the monetary reward was approved and authorized by the city council "without legal basis."

Based on Espina's comment, the Commission on Audit assued a notice of disallowance in May 2006 ordering the six councilors to return the over P1.6 million they had each received.

with the COA directive. The six instead filed a motion to lift the notice of disallowance at the City Auditor's Office.

Lacson, meanwhile, told the In-QUIRER, that he believed Ordinance No. 8040 remained "valid" despite the COA's findings.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's valid. If the mayor does write us a letter, that will be the only time I will react," he said.

Lacson also shared Veloso's view that councilors oftentimes

No one has complied so far ended up spending their own money to help their constituents because what they were receiving in salary and benefits were not enough.

"But in case they ask us to return the money, I won't be able to return anything because I've already spent it," he said, adding that he recently underwent three operations for pancreatitis.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Asuncion and Silva for comment but they did not return calls made to their offices.

with missing

Parents

reunited

daughter

By Kenneth M. del Rosario

A 3-YEAR-OLD GIRL WAS

reunited with her parents on

Monday afternoon after the

woman who took her tried to

sell her to two security guards

of a television network who in

The parents of Pamela Ingrid

Magpayo rushed to the Quezon

City Police District Station 10

after they were informed that

their daughter, who disap-

peared while playing in front of

their house in Pasay City on

an who took her, Jennifer Sal-

vador, was arrested by the po-

Salvador took her to the GMA 7

building on Edsa, Quezon City on Monday and tried to sell her

to security guards Manuel

On the other hand, the wom-

Magpayo was rescued after

Sunday night, was there.

turn called up the police

Retirement pay worth P600,000 lost to robbers

By Kristine L. Alave

JUAN GUTTERREZ JR., A 54year-old former employee of Union Ajinomoto Inc., was ready to enjoy his retirement pay.

But instead of spending it on a vacation, Gutterrez and his wife Conchita, landed in the hospital on Monday after four unidentified armed suspects followed them from a Pasig City bank, where they withdrew his retirement benefits, and shot them when they refused to turn over the money.

Gutterrez told Pasig City police that four armed security guards saw the incident but made no move to help them, enabling the suspects to get away, taking P600,000 with them

A poace report said the couple withdrew the money from a Bank of the Philippine Islands branch in Barangay Bagong Ilog pistol at the crime scene.

in Pasig City on Monday morning. Shortly after boarding a cab, they noticed two men on a motorcycle tailing them. One of the men drew a gun and overtook their cab as it traveled along C-5 Avenue.

Before reaching the SM Warehouse along C-5, two men onboard another motorbike joined the chase, Pasig City police chief Sr. Supt. Frank Uyamı said. The cab driver drove to an open gate of SM Warehouse in an attempt to lose the suspects.

However, the suspects followed them and tried to get the couple's money at gunpoint. in the struggle, Conchita was shot in the foot and the leg while Juan suffered a grazed wound on the left side of his body.

The victims were rushed to the Medical City in Pasig for treatment. Police found two spent shells from a .45 caliber



INTUE REALINEY SMILL

Manila policemen destroy pornographic magazines and DVDs recovered from vendors in Quiapo, Manila, yesterday. Those arrested will be charged with violation of the Revised Penal Code 201 (Selling of Pornographic Materials) in the Manila City Prosecutor's Office.

'MMDA traffic improvements to cut travel time to provinces'

By DJ Yap

THE SUMMER CAPITAL OF Baguio may soon be just a three-hour ride Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

The usual six-hour travel time from Manila to Baguio may be

engineering is put in place, the MMDA official said.

Even better, it is possible to reach Baguio without taking the North Luzon Expressway at a speed of 80 kilometers per hour, the makeshift shanties and ille-Fernando said in a statement.

Traveling to the northern city

only the highways are cleared of eight hours, but along the way, obstructions, and better traffic motorists have to contend with a host of problems, from obstructions like shannes and vendors on the sidewalks to poor traffic enforcement

In particular, Fernando cited gal vendors that occupy the sidewalks along MacArthur cut by as much as three hours if normally takes between six and Highway, Manua North Road

and the lateral streets connect-

On a recent trip to Baguio, Fernando said the traffic on MacArthur Highway from Bulacan to Pangasinan was "chaotic," particularly in the town proper because of vendors, allegal parking and informal settlers.

study the traffic conditions in in these provinces.

the provinces between Manila and Baguio and come up with recommendations for President Macapagal-Arroyo's approval

Recently, the MMDA extended its traffic management dunes to roads leading to Baccor, Cavite and Laguna, following a directive from the President to He said the MMDA would help solve the traffic problems

Lucero and Mechille Dimalaluan for P800. Thinking that the suspect was oking, Dimalaluan asked her if she could have the girl for

> The guards said they became suspicious of Salvador after they noticed that the victim was crying the whole time, prompting them to call the police

> The suspect, meanwhile, told the police that she merely "rescued* the victim because she was playing in an unsafe place The suspect's parents later turned up at the police station to claim that their daughter was mentally ill although they could not present any medical certificate to prove it.

The victim's parents, Allan and Christina, said they were happy to be reunited with their daughter who disappeared a day before her third birthday.

Part-time jobs for qualified Muntinlupa City students

By Julie M. Aurelio

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN MUNtinlupa City will soon be given a chance to work part-time for a popular fast-food chain.

The city government recently announced its partnership with the McDonald's chain of restauployment to students in the city.

Dubbed "McHanapbuhay Ka," the program will allow Mc-Donald's to employ on a parttime basis students enrolled in the city's colleges, depending on their class schedules.

"This agreement ensures the

rants in providing part-time em- employment of our residents. We thank McDonald's for leading the way in increasing employment opportunities," Mayor Aldrin San Pedro said.

The mayor signed an agreement with Dennis de Guzman of Gold Arches Development Corp., and the managers of the different McDonald's outlets at Hanapbuhay Ka" employment Ayala Alabang, Festival Supermall, Northgate Cyberzone in Filinvest Corporate City and Southmall in Las Piñas City.

The venture with the fastfood chain is part of the Public Employment Service Office's "Oplan Tulong Aral May

program for Muntiplupa City

San Pedro added that all Mc-Donald's branches in Muntimupa City will only hire residents enrolled in different coaleges in the city as part-time crew mem-

YOU DEAD OR ALIVE? LINDSAY LOHAN

MITTIGE 8-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

Parents of rape-slay ...

From page A23

the court to decide. We based it on the evidence of the police identifying the corpse as that of Geraldine Palma's ... But I think they (accused) can file a motion to quash the information or a motion to dismiss. The court might dismiss it because there's no case to speak of if that is not Palma's body," he said.

Ramil Diorico, Raffy Nepa, Renato "Rick-Rick" Bohol, Joey Igos and alleged mastermind Henry "Hemler" Tesado had been charged with rape with matton," he said

homicide at the Manila Regional Trial Court. They were tagged by their supposed cohorts, Rosdam Mesias and Domingo Agnote, who turned state witnesses, and a certain "Berta."

Lopez added that it was up to the judge to decide whether or not to dismiss the charges.

"If the witness can prove that the suspects committed a crime against the victim even though the girl found in the suitcase was not Palma, we will continue the case but amend the infor-

UP frat violence ... From page A23

died of hazing-related injuries.

Mendez was brought on Aug. 27 to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where a doctor could have led to his death.

An unidentified witness who next few days. went to the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) the other day confirmed that the victim had joined the Sigma Rho fraternity and was about to undergo initiation rites a few days before his death.

According to Leonen, the UP administration is furious over Mendez's death. He admitted that during a meeting between UP president Emerlinda Roman fraternibes two weeks ago, she case.

dent who is also beheved to have them, 'I am furious over this up your mess," Leonen said.

declared him dead on arrival. An very furious. We are one in this," autopsy report said that he had he added, saying that Roman received a heavy beating which will issue an administrative or-

Cristina, the mother of Mendez, meanwhile, retterated her appeal to her son's fraternity "brothers" to help in the investi-

"She was hoping that Sigma and representatives of different vision which is in charge of the

Villanueva, a UP Los Baños stu- scolded those present. "She told death. I am furious over your gall

> "This administration is very, der regulating fratermities in the

> gation into his death.

Rho members would not keep mum on the issue and instead help in resolving the case of her son," said lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the National Bureau of Investigation Anti-Terrorism Di-With Tina G. Santos

METROBRIEFS

Cops recover MMDA official's stolen van

POLICE recovered the van of Metropolitan Manila Development Author-Ity Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios, severa, hours after it was taken at gunpoint from his driver on Visayas Avenue Quezon City, on Monday morning, De Dios' vehicle, a black Hyundai Starex (ZGZ 711) was spotted in San Juan, Greenhills, by members of the Philippine National Police Traffic Management Group who were on patrol at 9 p.m. The van, however bore a different license plate, ZOX 923 and was moving alongside a gray Mitsubishi Adventure (ZFC 690). The Starex later stopped and the driver got off the vehicle and transferred to the Adventure. Some policemen followed the other van while the others stayed with the Starex. On Connect-out Street near Edsa, policemenflagged down the Adventure and saw that it was carrying four men and a woman. Police seized from the four men three cal. 45 pistols, two hand grenades, and six magazines for call ,45 guns. All five were taken into custody after they failed to show documents for their firearms. The men were identified as Dennis "Daga" Ignacio, Eduardo Bonifacio, Edmond Bonifacio, and Ronald Berber. The police, however, did not give the woman's name as they were still checking her involvement with the group. A check of the Starex's chassis and engine numbers rater showed that it was the one stolan from Vergel de Dios' driver at a car wash shop on Visayas Avenue.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

to always leave it to us to clean. Lim orders strict implementation of ban on 'magic sugar'

> MANILA Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim yesterday ordered the strict implementation of the barr on "magic sugar," which is being used by ambulant food vendors. Lim said the health of students and other consumers was at risk because of the widespread use of magic sugar or sod um cyclamate, which has been banned by the Bureau of Food and Drugs after it was found to contain carcinogens. Last Friday, three persons were arrested by the Manila City Hall police after 130 kilos of the product, which is being used as a food sweetener, were recovered from a warehouse during an entrapment operation. They were identified as Padrou. Prangan, Sheryl Abolo and Niladine Liamas. In a follow-up operation: yesterday, three more kilos of the prohibited item were confiscated from & izabeth Ramos of Herrera Street Tondo. All suspects were charged with violating Republic Act 3720 (Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act) and SFAD Advisory 00-05 banning the sale and use of the substance. Lim said the public should be careful when buying food and drinks since the banned sugar is often used in fruit juices, pearl jeilles, scramble ice shakes, iced products and dirty ice cream which are being sold in public schools, markets, plazas, parks or on the streets.

Allison W. Lopez

Aso as Japan's

new premier

Nerds back

Monks stage protests in Burma



TOKYO-FORMER Foreign Minister Taro Aso is the clear underdog in the race to become Japan's next prime minister. But among young Japanese fans of pop culture, Aso is king

An avowed booster of "manga" comic books and animation known as "anımé,"

Aso has won the support of fans—called "otaku," or nerds-for his promise to promote Japanese pop art overseas.

"Aso is a true nerd, He should be prime minister!" said Asami Suzuki, a 20-year-old college student shopping for comics in Akihabara, a Tokyo neighborhood filled with comic book shops and electronic goods.

"He understands that manga and animé are so important to Japan's .mage," Suzuri said.

While foreign minister, Aso-a conservative with hawkish foreign policy views -argued that warm feelings for Japanese pop culture can translate into warm feelings for its foreign policy

Under his leadership, Japanese water tanks deployed as humanitarian aid to Iraq were emblazoned with an image of a cutesy cartoon soccer player. Aso also oversaw the launch of the International Manga Award, an honor he has likened to "a Nobel Prize" for the genre.

He claims he can never wait to get his hands on the latest issue of Shonen Jump, a telephone directory-thick weekly featuring the latest comics, and reportedly stocked comics in his official car.

He opened a campaign speech in Akihabara last year with, "Hello, fellow nerds!"

Markets have taken note.

Manga-related shares jumped in Tokyo ast Wednesday, following Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's shock resignation, on speculation that Aso could become the country's next leader.

Shares in Broccob, a publisher and game store operator, rocketed 71 percent. The company We've, which produces a Japanese version of "Sesame Street," gained 14 percent.

By Tuesday this week, share prices had come down-as had Aso's chances on winning the ruling Liberal Democratic Party presidency in the Sept. 23 bailot.

WORLDBRIEFS

Musharraf to become civilian

ISLAMABAD-Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf plans to guit as Army chief to become a cividan leader, removing a main objection to his proposed reelection in October, a serijor ruling party official said on Monday. "We'expect that after his reelection process next month, God willing, General Musharraf would take his oath of office as a civilian president before Nov. 15 " Sen. Mushahid Hussain. Sayed, secretary-general of the Pakistan Mus-I'm League (PML), told Reuters. Musharraf retained the post of Army chief after he seized power in a military coup in 1999, despite calls from the opposition to guit the dual office. Reviers

World's oldest man at 112

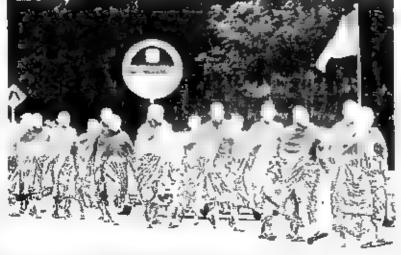
TOKYO-The world's oldest man celebrated his 112th birthday with two bashes at his home in southern Japan on Tuesday, then declared that he wants to live forever. Tomoji Tanabe held his first celebration on receiving. 100,000 ven (\$870) and flowers from the local mayor, and the second when he was joined later by his children. "I want to live forever 1. don't want to die," Tanabe was quoted as sayng by Kyodo news agency. Tanabe, recognized by the Guinness Book of World Records as the ordest living male in June 2006. Is "extremely." healthy," said an official at his hometown of Miyakonojo on the island of Kyushu. Reuters

British bank run

LONDON—Anxious customers again queued up to withdraw the ricash from embattled. British bank Northern Rock on Tuesday despite a government pledge to protect savings and a recovery in its share price. For a fourth day, long lines formed outside branches of the mortgage lender, which last week was granted a bail-out by the Bank of England as it struggled to finance its lending amid a global credit crunch. Finance Minister Al stair Darling announced on Monday that the Bank of England would guarantee all existing deposits in Northern Rock, Britain's fifth-largest mortgage lender.

Iraq revokes US firm's license

BAGHDAD-Irag on Monday ordered the cancellation of US security firm Slackwater's operating license after it was involved in a shootout in Baghdad that killed eight people and wounded 13, a senior official told AFP Blackwater guards, who provide personal security for US civillan officials. working in Iraq, also faced a US investigation into the gun battle as differing accounts began to emarge over the circumstances of the shooting US and Iraqi sources in Baghdad said the shooting erupted after a bomb exploded near a US dipiomatic convoy in Baghdad's Al-Yarmukh neighborhood on Sunday, but a US government. incident report said armed insurgents fired on the THE STATE OF THE S



BUDDHIST monks march while chanting prayers and holy scriptures in Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar). The protests were held in at least two cities, including Sittwe, on Tuesday when a reported religious boycott of the ruling military junta members and their associates was RANGOON-BUDDHIST MONKS STAGED protest marches in at least three cities and towns in Burma (Myanmar) on Tuesday, the day a reported religious boycott of members of the ruling military junta and their associates was due to start.

In Rangoon, the commercial capital, authorities appeared to have thwarted a planned ceremony at the famed Shwedagon Pagoda that would have kicked off the boycott there.

"We could not hold the formal ceremony because the Shwedagon was closed," one monk, who declined to be named, told

The more than 400 monks then marched peacefully to the city center, chanting prayers and hely scriptures but no political slogans.

They were trailed by plantclothes police and members of the Urnon Solidarity and Development Association (USDA), the junta's feared social organization which has broken up protests against soaring fuel prices that be-

gan four weeks ago.

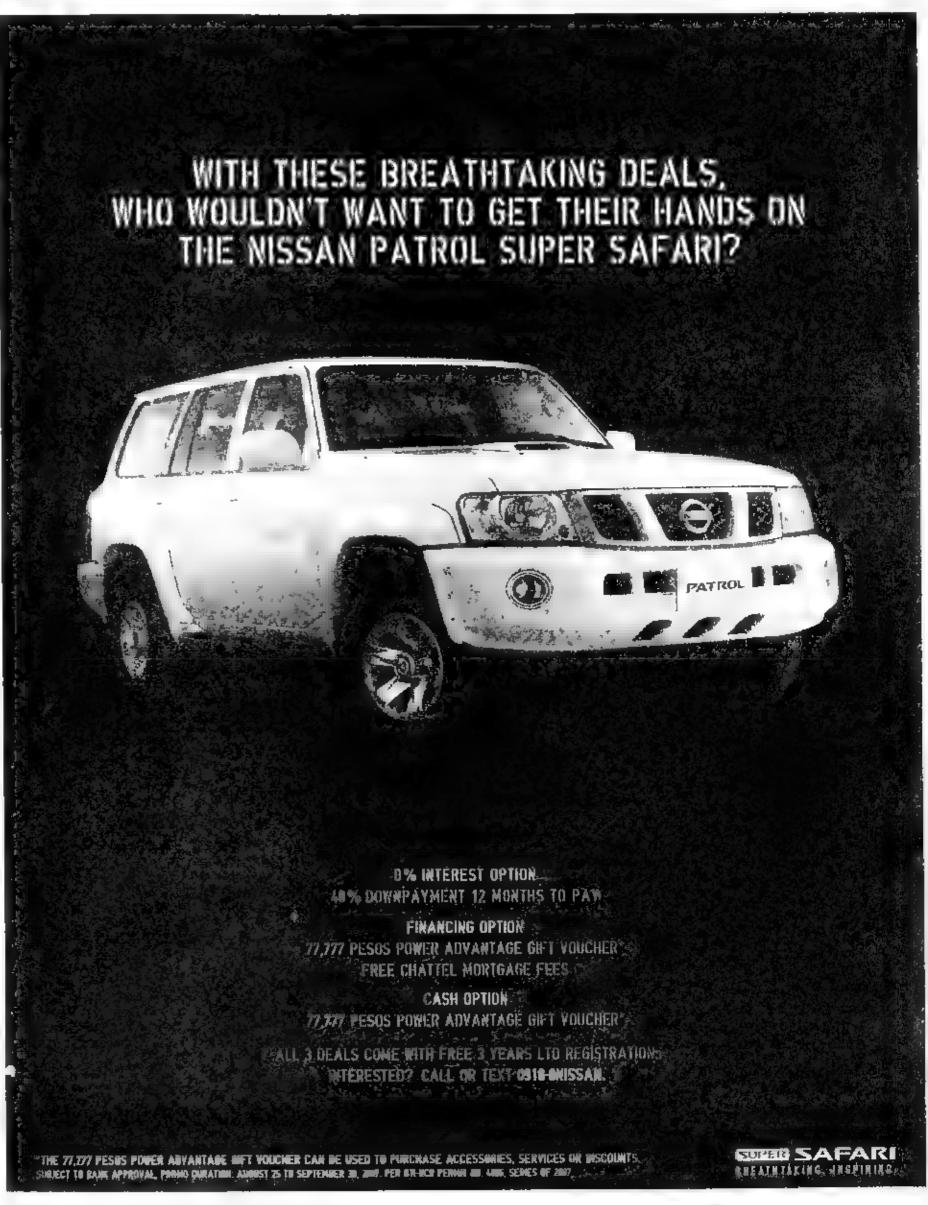
They videotaped and photographed the monks, but took no action against them, wit-

Similar marches were reported in Bago, 80 kilometers north of Rangoon, and in the northwestern city of Sittwe where one resident said the monks had been "suppressed" but gave no details.

The Burma language services of foreign broadcasters have reported that some Buddhist monks would refuse to accept alms from anybody associated with the ruling generals from Tuesday.

They said an alliance of monks had demanded an apology for soldiers firing shots to disperse a demonstration by monks in the town of Pakokku two weeks ago

A boycott, in which monks refuse to accept alms and offerings from well-wishers, would be taken extremely seriously in the deeply de-



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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Human error eyed in Thai jet crash

BANGKOK-THAI AUTHORITIES PROBING A plane crash that killed 89 people in Phuket are investigating whether human error was to blame, with officials saying the pilot was warned of dangerous wind conditions.

Air traffic controllers in Phuker told Indonesian pilot Arief Mulyadi, who was among the dead, that there had been reports of a weather phenomenon called wind shear, officials on the island resort said.

"There was a warning of wind shear from the pilot in the previous flight, which landed four minutes ahead," Kumtorn Sirikom, vice president of the air traffic to land." Wind shear is a sudden

control body Aeronautical Radio of Thailand, told AFP

"Air traffic control asked the pilot whether he knew about this wind shear or not, and he said he knew ... then the air traffic control official gave him additional information and asked him whether he still wanted to land

"The pilot insisted he wanted

change in wind direction that can throw a plane off course but then disappear just as quickly, leaving pilots struggling to keep the jet under control.

Sunday's flight from Bangkok was approaching Phuket airport in driving rain and wind when it slammed onto the runway before breaking up and skidding into a wooded embankment in flames.

It was carrying 123 passengers and seven crew, of whom a total 41 escaped. The death toll included up to 57 foreigners.

Chaisawasd Kittipompaiboon, who is leading the transport ministry's crash investigation, said in some cases it took up to three years to determine the cause.

He said they were compiling evidence from the black boxes-which are due to be sent to the US for analysis this week-as well as aircraft instruments and the voice recording between the pilot and the control tower.

Teannot pinpoint the cause of the accident. At this moment we are still compiling information from various sides," he told AFP

"Wind shear is counted (as a possible cause) as it put sudden pressure on the aircraft body," he

Udom Tantiprasongchai, president of budget carrier One-Two-Go operating the doomed plane, admitted the airline bore some responsibility for the crash.

Security improvements not enough

"It is too soon to jump to conclusions, it is unfair to our staff. Please wait until the investigation is finished. But definitely it is partially our responsibility," he told reporters.

Kajit Habanananda, vice president of One-Two-Go, said the pilot had been warned about the wind, but urged investigators not to assume that human error was to blame for what was Thailand's worst air disaster in a decade.

"It's true that there was a warning of wind shear from the previous flight," Kajit told AFP. "But the wind is constantly changing," he said.

He urged people to wait for the results of the probe. "As of

now, I cannot speculate. No one knows the truth." The pilot's son, meanwhile, said senior officials at the airline told him that his father had asked for permission to return to the capital Bangkok but was told to land, according to the Indonesian newspaper Tempo.

'Arref had the time to ask the authorization to go back to Bangkok and abort landing in Phuket airport because of unfriendly weather," but the air traffic control tower said he should land, Agung Bayu Hanggono told the newspaper.

Civil aviation officials have also previously said the pilot of the MD-82 had received permission to abort at the last minute. AFP

War talk heightens Iran nuke dispute

PARIS—FRANCE FOLLOWED up a warning that the Iran nuclear crisis could lead to war by celling on Monday for European sanctions against Tehran.

French Prime Minister Francos Fillon said tensions with Iran are now "extreme," heightening a dipiomatic storm caused by Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner's warning on Sunday that the world should prepare for a possible conflict over Iran's alleged work on a nuclear weapon.

The comments infuriated Iranian leaders who accused France of stoking tensions. International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed ElBarade: called the war talk "hype." 2 While French leaders said they would prefer a negotiated settlement, they also launched a proposał to establish European sanctions against Iran, outside of those already implemented by the United Nations.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany are to discuss new UN sanctions on Iran, which has rejected demands to stop enriching uranium.

Kouchner met his Dutch counterpart Maxime Verhagen in Paris and said European countries should prepare their own non-UN sanctions.

"These would be European sanctions that each country, individually, must put in place with its own banking, commercial and industrial system. The English and the Germans are interested in talking about this. We will try to find a common European position," Kouchner

Britain, France and Germany have led European efforts, with US backing, to try to persuade Iran to end its nuclear efforts in exchange for a package of economic and diplomatic measures.

WASHINGTON-THE tagon reported to Congress on Monday that political progress in Iraq remains stalled despite a surge in US forces, and warned that improvements in security were not enough to win the

The quarterly report to Congress on stability and security in Iraq said the surge had led to improvements in security, including a drop in sectarian killing and civilian casualties and a downward trend in attacks.

But it said, "Improved security and stability is not enough to win the counterinsurgency. Political progress must also be achieved to reinforce and complement progress in securing the traci population." "There has been little national-level political progress in passing key legislation and implementing government reform," it

It said efforts to seek consensus



A US soldier of Charlie company, 2nd Battalion, 16th infantry Regiment takes up position during a patrol in Baghdad.

"remain complicated by continued sectanan divisions and violence that exacerbates those divisions," The report said the most promising political developments were at the local level, where the US military is pursuing a so-called

iation with Sunm insurgents dis- proved security. enchanted with al-Qaida.

The findings generally tracked with presentations to Congress last week by Gen. David Petraeus, who proposed a gradual drawdown of US surge forces by July "bottom up" approach to reconcil- 2008 on the strength of the im-

The report said Irag's provinces are now scheduled to be transferred to Iraqi control by July, but it warned of delays due weaknesses in Iraqu police forces.

Currently 169,000 US troops



US-based Muslim charity accused of funding terrorists

DALLAS-AS THE GOVERNMENT'S SIGnature terrorism-financing trial moved toward a close here on Monday, federal prosecutors reaffirmed their charge that the largest Muslim charity in the United States was not simply trying to help poor Palestinians but was an arm of the radical Islamic group Hamas.

The charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Rehef and Development, and five of its officers have been on trial here since July 16, charged with conspiracy, money laundering and providing financial support to a foreign terrorist organization.

The foundation, based in a Dallas suburb, raised more than \$57 million before the govprosecution, and sent \$12.4 million to Palestinian charities the government contends were controlled by Hamas.

Prosecutors did not contend Monday that the foundation directly financed suicide bombings or weapons purchases. Rather, its financial contributions to charities controlled by Hamas helped that group win the hearts and minds of Palestinians, said Barry Jonas, the Justice Department prosecutor who summarized the government's case for the jury on

But the defense, which began its summation Monday afternoon, argues that the foundation never gave money to banned groups and took steps to distance itself from politics and to try to make sure it complied with US

In December 2001, President Bush anernment closed it in 2001, according to the nounced that he was freezing the Holy Land Foundation's assets and said Hamas had "obtained much of the money it pays for murder abroad right here in the United States." NYT

New US attorney general

WASHINGTON-US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush on Monday nominated as his new attorney general retired judge Michael Mukasey, who would inherit a US Justice Department beset by a series of scandals and low morale.

"It's a pivotal time for our nation and it's vital that the position of attorney general be filled quickly. I urge the Senate to confirm Judge Mukasey promptly," Bush said with Mukasey at his side in the White House Rose

White House spokesperson Dana Perino said the president hoped the US Senate, controlled by Bush's Democratic foes, would confirm Mukasey to replace the scandal-stained Alberto Gonzales before going into recess on Oct. 8.

The US president, sorely weakened by the unpopular Iraq war, appeared to be skirting a possible showdown with the Democrats after Gonzales, a close Bush confidant, left the post under a cloud.

Gonzales announced his departure in late August, as Democratic and Republican critics alike charged that he lacked independence from the White House, was incompetent, hid the truth and may be guilty of perjury.

A former top aide to Gonzales revealed earlier this year that she improperly used political criteria in hiring decisions, and Democrats



PRESIDENT Bush (right) with nominee Mulcase

have been probing whether a mass purge of federal prosecutors was tied to political, not judicial, considerations.

The nomination could have far-reaching implications for several pitched battles over Bush administration antiterrorism policies, like warrantless spying on US citizens.

Democratic Majority Leader Harry Reld said Mukasey had "strong professional credentials a reputation for independence" and suggested the former judge "knows how to say no to the president when he oversteps the



WHAT'S INSIDE 19 'Hall-of-Fame' it with an asterisk or blast it to space? /A29

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



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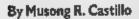
Assistant Editor Francis T. J. Ochoa



Archers shoot down Eagles for No. 2 slot

Ateneo forced into playoff vs UST Tigers

fV CASIO, La Salle's hero yesterday, gets two of his 21 points off Ateneo hotshot Chris Tlu. AUGUST DELACRUZ



LA SALLE MADE ALL THE RIGHT PLAYS at the right time vesterday and Ateneo's Zion Leterre a basket that would have been heroic in another time, another

The Green Archers highlighted their much ballyhooed return to the UAAP by upending the Eagles, 70-69, for the No. 2 seat in the stepladder semifinals of the men's basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Cholo Villanueva scored on a free throw split with 9.3 seconds left, and it proved to be the marginal point for the Archers, who defeated their blood rival Eagles for the first time in three tries this year—the most important win to boot-to earn a tremendous edge in the race to the Finais.

JV Casio capped a 21-point performance with a layup in the final 1:54 that gave La Salle a 69-65 lead, and the Archers failed to score until that Villanueva charity.

But La Saile pulled out the win just the same as Laterre, mainly a stopper, got a surprise pass at the free throw line from Jai Reyes in the potential game-tying play by Ateneo.

Instead of popping out a pass to anyone or

(Araneta Collseum) 3 p.m.—Ateneo

stepping back beyoud the arc for a bucket that would tie the count, Laterre took-and made-a meaningless

teardrop shot that left a tenth of a second on the clock and the Eagles with no chance to get the ball back.

"I was really confident coming into this game," said La Salle coach Franz Pumaren, surprisingly cool and emotionless despite coming off a thriller of a ballgame. "The manner in which we lost our last two games showed the character of this team.

'Most relaxed atmosphere'

"To tell you frankly, I have coached in more than 120 games but thus was the most relaxed atmosphere I have experienced," he added. "Maybe it (No. 2 siot) was destiny on our part. A window was opened and we grabbed the opportunity*

Areneo, which bungled its golden chance of nailing the No. 2 slot outright by losing to alsoran National U on Saturday, thus dropped into a KO game with defending champion Santo Tomas, scheduled for Sunday, with the winner advancing opposite the Archers and needing to beat them twice to make the title series.

The Growling Tigers extended their reign with a masterful 80-69 conquest of Far Eastern. Ateneo had control for most of the game,

though no team led comfortably all throughout. La Salle, however, displayed more poise, composure and heart when winning time came as its go-to guys, Casio and TY Tang in particular, rose to the challenge when called.

Archer Had banned

Meanwhile, the UAAP board last night came down hard on La Salle forward Brian llad, who was slapped a five-game suspension on top of the automatic one-game ban for being ejected after punching UE forward Mark Fampuime on Thursday.

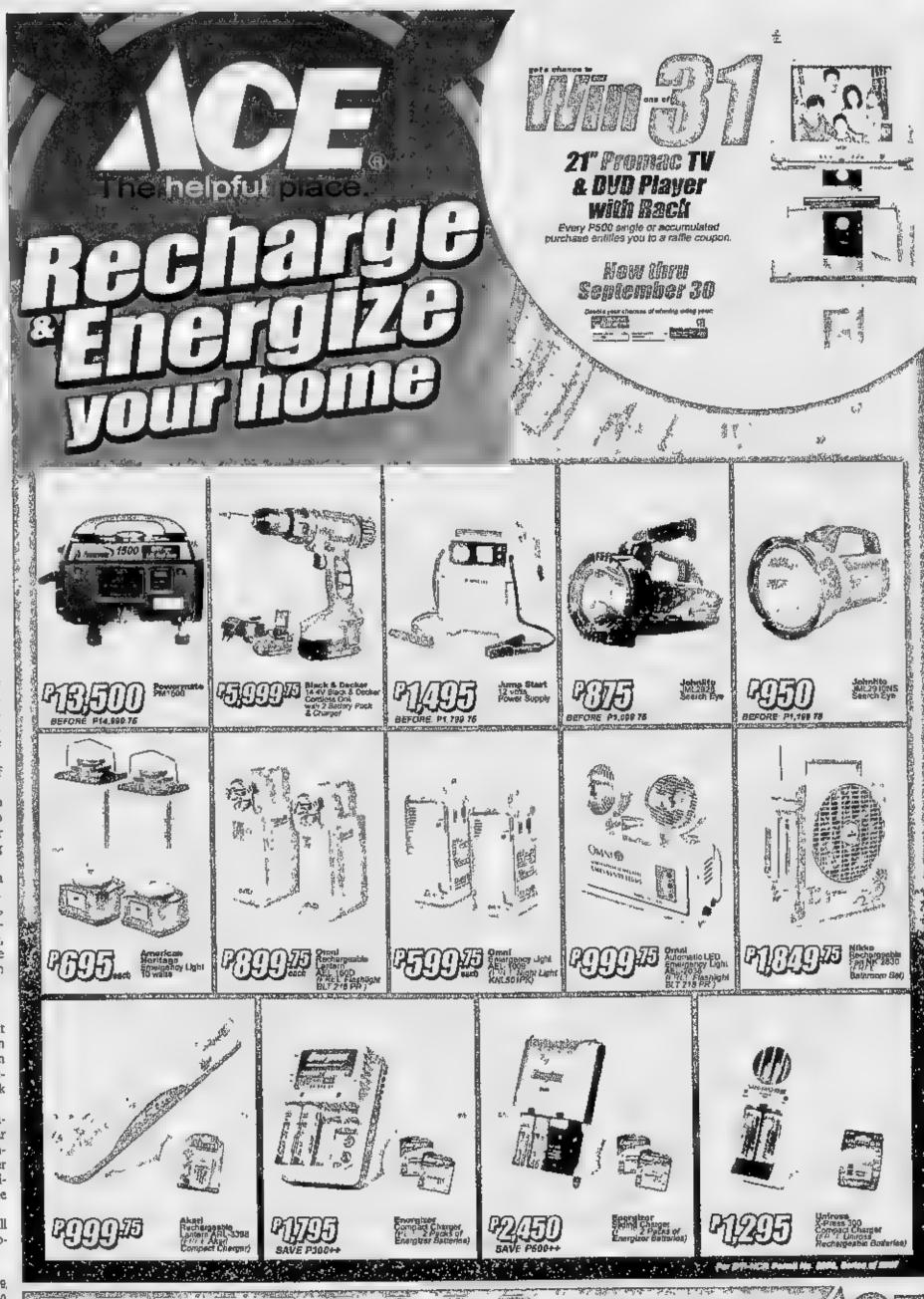
That would mean the end of the UAAP career of the 6-foot-5 Ilad, who is in his first year with the Green Archers but actually had consumed four years of eligibility in another league with the Phuppine College of Criminology. Ilad served his automatic one-game ban yesterday.

The board also urged supporters of all member schools to behave "with proper decorum and civility in cheering for their teams."

LA SALLE 70-Casio 21, Materholer 13, Tang 10, Bansa 9, Villenueva 7, Waisham 6, Ferdinand 2, Mangahas 2, Malabes 0, Atidns 0, Cua 0, Co 0.

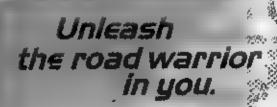
ATENEO 69-Long 11, The 10. Sajamai 10, Laterre 9, Arao 8, Al-Hussaini 7, Bacteo 4, Escueta 4, Micemakolam 2, Reyes 2, Barracoso 2, Monfort O.

Quarters: 12-13, 28-32, 50-47, 70-68



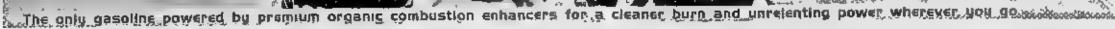
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SPORTS

N'woods, Eastridge forge Fed golf title duel

ROYAL NORTHWOODS OF BULACAN the other Final Four duel. and Eastndge of Rizal pulled off scrambling wins over their favored foes over the weekend to seal a championship duel in the 2007 Federation Golf League.

Northwoods reached the finals for the second time in four years, coming from behind to turn back second seed Alabang, 6-4, in their semifinal senes.

The 2004 champion Northwoods shoots for a second title against Eastridge, which stunned two-time champion and top seed Forest Hills in

Eastridge forged a 2.5-2.5 draw at Forest Hills then hacked out a 4-1 triumph at home to barge into the finals for the first time.

Northwoods and Eastridge clash this weekend in another home-and-away showdown with the Bulacan squad picked as the odds-on favorite.

At Eastridge, King Sumulong and Mike Kim delivered the first point for the home team with a 6-and-5 victory in high-low, then Owen Lee and Ellery

points Eastridge needed to win the match with a 4-and-3 win in best-ball,

Rading Decipeda and Nick Kim delivered the clinching point by finishing off their greensome opponents for a 2-and-1 win to secure Eastridge's finals stint and end Forest Hills' bid to become the first team to win three titles.

"Northwoods will be tough to beat but I think our victory over Forest Hills prepared us for the title series," said Eastridge team captain Erwin Temena.

Alabang built a 3-2 lead at home on wins by Arnel Paras-Francis Jimenez (greensome), Monto Briones-OV Espiritu (scramble) and Vic Guzman-Juan Ibazeta (aggregate).

But three successive blowout victories set into motion the Northwoods rally with Sixto Sengson-Von Sarmiento posting a 6-and-4 win in best-ball, followed by similar 4-and-3 decisions forged by Amle Arteche-Danny Dalija and Rodel Mangulabnan-Choi Min Sik in the greensome and aggregate formats.

Lions, Knights start battle for NCAA crown

By Marc Anthony Reyes

HISTORY UNDERPINS THE RENEWAL of the rivalry between San Beda and Letran when they start their NCAA men's basketball best-of-three championship series today at the Araneta Coliseum.

It's the first time in 57 years that the two squads will actually meet in the finals.

The last time they met, Letran's squad was famously referred to as Murder Inc. for the way it crushed rivals, Lauro Mumar was the First Knight and Caloy Loyzaga was the alpha male of the Red Lions pride.

As intriguing as the match-up is, San Beda coach Frankie Lim nonchalantly brushes off the idea that this is an important chapter in both schools' history.

"This is the finals and you can throw everything, the records, history, and statistics out the window," said San Beda coach Frankie Lim.

And rightly so. Things have changed since both schools marched straight to the final dance. For starters, the defending champion Red Lions have mowed down the field on the way to a 13-1 record.

Letran? It has slogged its way through the

eliminations. But it did score one big highlight triumph in that phase, inflicting San Beda's lone defeat, 70-69, in the first round.

Lim, a member of the 1977-78 San Beda champion team, is hoping to hand his alma mater back-to-back titles right in his first try as collegiate coach. Koy Banal coached the Red Lions to the title last year.

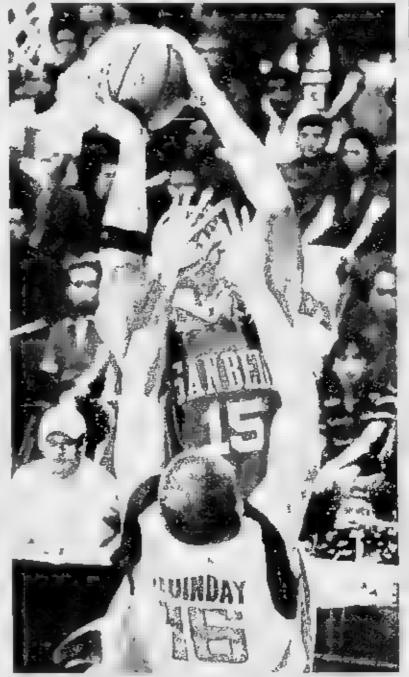
"Playing in the finals is totally different," Lim said. "This is all about heart and the will to

Ironscally it's the rooke-laden Knights which have so far showed bigger heart throughout the season.

Letran tends to thrive when the game goes down the wire. The Lions have to prove their ability to play the crunch, but it is a dilemma that Lim will gladly accept—the Lions have won by an average of 16 points so far.

As far as Letran coach Louie Alas is concerned, whichever teams takes Game 1 is likely to wrap up the title.

"In a short series like this, Game 1 is very important," said Alas, who masterminded the Knights' 2003 and 2005 championship run. "It's going to be tough because we're up against a very strong opponent."



SAN BEDA's Ogie Menor draws a foul from Letran's Andro Quinday in the two squads' first-round meeting won by the Knights. AUGISTORIACIUS



Del Rosario wins 4th rider plum

PAUL DEL ROSARIO COMPLETED A 1200 Open Unlimited at the recent 2007 Petron-JSAP National Jet Ski Series championship leg off the Waterfront at the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority to capture his fourth Rider of the Year award

Sammy Boy Parilla likewise pulled off a sweep in the Novice 4-Strokes class to clinch the Novice Rider of the

Del Rosario also took the Rider of the Year award with back-to-back wins in 1999-2000 and shared the championship with BJ Anglast year.

He bested Mike Mangio and Ang season sweep in the premiere Expert using a stock Kawasaki Ultra 250X the same hull he will be using in the 2007 World Jet Ski Finals set Oct. 6-14 in Lake Havasu, Arizona,

Del Rosario also emerged champion in the Stand-up class over Peter Cruz, Yanik Elnar and Mike Mangio. Parilla turned back Jam Mangio

and Robbie David of Team Zuave in the final Novice races.

Parilla was three points behind David before the final leg but quickly grabbed pole position at the start of the finals. David struggled to shake off Mangio all throughout the race.

Mangio clinched the Female Rider of the Year title over Abby Reves.

Other winners were Yanik Elnar, who took the Open Sport crown over Alex Isip and Paul Buendia; Bobby del Rosario, Executive class winner over Joey Millionado and David, and Team Zuave's Burch Casido, who clinched the Novice 2-Strokes crown over Alex Isip and Dax Figueros.

Dong Arcilla, president of the organizing Jet Sports Association of the Philippines, was elated over the success of the 2007 season under the stewardship of race director Millionado and chief marshal Jeremy Chua.

World darts tilt RP qualifier unfurls Friday

THE COUNTRY'S TOP DARTERS SEE ACTION starting Friday in the P100,000 Chris Sports Philippine Qualifier for the World Darts Championship at the Festival Mall in Alabang.

The three-day tournament, organized by the National Dart Foundation of the Philippines in cooperation with Solar Sports, will select the country's representative to the \$1.1million world championship slated Dec. 17 to Jan. 1, 2008 in Alexandra Palace, Britain.

The national qualifier, sponsored by Robson Spectra, Line Pro, Tanduay, and Questor, and supported by Inquites Publications, Negros Navigation and Gamework, kicks off with an open tournament at 5 p.m. on Friday with the 16 qualifiers joining the top 16 NDFP-ranked players and four wild cards from affiliated dart federations.

The round-robin chromation of the qualifier starts at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday.

The qualifier also includes a P15,000 Classified Draw Doubles on Saturday starting at 6 p.m. and the P20,000 Classified Draw Triples on Sunday at 3 p.m.

The Philippines is one of the world championships' four qualifiers along with India, Russia, and a country in Eastern Europe, according to NDFP president Tito Soncuya.

SPORTSWATCH

Top Cuban boxing coach Nat'l Open guest of honor

DLYMPIC AND WORLD CHAMPION MAKer Dr. Alcides Sagarra Caron has been Invited as guest of honor in the 2007 Smart National Open boxing championships stated Sept. 30 to Oct. 6 in Cagayan de Oro.

Caron, the man behind the success of Cuba's former Olympic champions such as Felix Savon, Teoflio Stevenson, Felix Balado and Joel Casamayor, is to conduct seminars and clinics during the weaklong meet featuring 250 boxers from 35 teams.

"Cuba is the No. 1 boxing country in the world, that's why we are inviting Dr. Carron. as our guest of honor in the Open so he could impart his boxing knowledge to us," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Phillippines head Manny Lopez, who appeared in yesterday's PSA Forum at the Shakey's UN Avenue branch together with Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno

"We are confident that the National Open will be a resounding success," Gov. Moreno said in the same forum sponsored by Shakey's and Pagcor

Cagayan de Oro is home to Doha Aslan Games gold medalist Violito Payla, 2005 Southeast Asian Games gold medal wigner Genebert Basadre and Roberto Jalnatz, 4 who saw action in the 1992 Barcelona. Olympics and won for the country a gold medal in the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

Razon bags taekwondo gold BERNARD RAZON, GOLD MEDAL ST IN the World Taekwondo Culture Expo In South Korea in June, topped category 4-8 of the 2007 Samsung Best of the Best National Taekwondo Championships at Glori-

etta Activity Center in Makati on Sunday. The 12-year-old student of St. Louis College of Valenzuela beat Eugene Torres of Powerhouse Batangas, 12-7, to nail

Team Meycauayan's lone gold in the meet. The squad of coach Moben Angeles also won one silver and five bronze medals.

Paul Dizon bagged the junior middisweight gold while setting for bronze medais were Razon's sister Jhoanna (girls category 2); Jel Ramos (boys category 3): Jalmer Exconde (boys category 5), Evelyn Ferrer (girls category 6), and Geneve Castillo (junior feather)

SM Cup bowling stakes P5M

ABOUT P5 M LL ON IN TOTAL CASH. prizes, including P500,000 for a perfect game, is at stake in the ongoing 7th SM Bowling Cup which ends on May 2008. Aside from cash prizes, national champions will win a Nissan Sentra or X-Trail. Interested players may visit an SM Bowling Center at the following branches: Mail of Asia, Megamak, Fairview and Cebu.

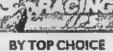
LGBA stagfest at SJC today

ALL ROADS LEAD TO SAN JUAN COLISEum today as the Luzon G: mecock Breeders Association 7-Stag Derby series gets under way at 11 a.m. with 120 fights.

Today's elimination round is part of the ongoing search for the LGBA Gamecock Breeder of the Year 2007, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Five participants posted three wins each in the Sept. 14 eliminations at Lucky Sports Complex They are Nelson Uv. Ronald Puno, Alex Tang, Arman Santos and Paulo Hizon.

Race 1—(Ort/Trl) -Speed Madcana (6). Hevenian Oueen (3). Think Tank (4),



Getting Better (2)

Race 2—(Ort/Fri)—Please Don't Stop (1). Distinctive

Dancer (4), Delty (3), Ideal Gaza (3) Race 9-(Ort/Trl) -Notting Impossible (3), Hand-Picked (5), Hazit Coming (4), Money For Rep (6) Race 4—(Det/fif)—Sword O'War (3), Easy Lover (2), Pele (5). Save Dur Queen (4)

O'Clock (8), Friendly Venture/Tower of Class (4), BM Saby (5), War Bird (8)

Rate 6—(Crt/Trt)—Sa Wakes (5), Prince Geoffe (3),
Miracle Music (5), Lady Beware (2)

Race 7—(Dato's Pride) (6), Regal Times (11), Carri-

Race 5—(Penta/Onl/Trl)—Ingay Ingay (9). Eve

benwell Beauty/Jade Express (4), Cool Cleto (7), Yao Man (2)

Pince B—(Super 6/Ort/fr)—Cheska Fun (11), Gun Powder (2), Words of Joy (1), Maslado (3), Stingray (5), Speed Bullet (12)

Barrera, Sulaiman: A chance at relevance

LOS ANGELES-GOING BY ESTABlished pre-fight facts-if not by the tale of the tape-make believe, like love, will have to reign in order for Marco Antonio Barrera to corner enough bets in the Will to Win card in Las Vegas on Oct. 6.

Of course, there will be fanatical Mexicans who will put requila money on the Baby-faced Assassin, but they are expected to do so only with caution and reluctance.

in fact, not a few Manny Pacquiao fanatics have been taunting Barrera on the website for deluding himself that he could still avenge his 2003 knockout loss to the raging Filipino boxing superhero.

These Pacman fans love to say Barrera has only two chances: Slim and

We all have heard that dig before. Not truly original, although it tinkles with some relevance this time. But, mind you, Barrera, 33, has

greater chances than what Pacquiao diehards wanted to believe.

So you really wanted to know who's the sure loser this early?

The World Boxing Council (WBC), who else? All for the simple fact that no official belt will be at stake in Pacquiao-

That goes without saying that the WBC will be deprived of the enormous sanctioning fee.

Barrera earlier lost his WBC super featherweight belt to Juan Manuel Marquez; Pacquiao has his version of the WBC International tide.

But it's clear that dumping the International belt, as the eminent Larry Merchant had always insisted, would not deprive the monumental rematch of excitement and glitter

Anyway, based on his golden worth, Pacquian definitely deserves a bigger





take, bigger than the \$2-million purse being bruited about.

However, it's also easy to believe claims that Oscar De La Hoya and Bob Arum, back in each other's arms, have conspired to shortchange Pacquiao.

These claimaints have been saying that Pacquiao, after all, has already gotten a whopping cash advance-\$500,000 from Golden Boy and \$1 million from Top Rank-when the Pacman went bang, bang and signed left and right fight contracts with both De La Hoya and Arum—in that order.

This issue had even led to unfounded claims that Pacquiao was thinking of Well, the official word is that Pacquiao

et al. are scheduled to plane back to Los Angeles on Saturday, first day of Fall here, for the final push in preparations for the Oct. 6 blockbuster in Las Vegas.

Everything is certain that Pacquiao is honoring his commitment like a true gentleman.

However, maybe this need not be asked, but will Don Jose Sulaiman, the WBC big boss, still bother to be at ringside now that not even an old WBC neckne will be at stake in the rematch?

You see, Don Jose had expressed concern after Pacquiao went down with the flu early in his Cebu training.

Sulaiman, once labeled as the pontiff of pugilism, in wishing Pacquiao well, insisted great champions should always be properly protected for their reign to last and prosper. That said, it's easy to believe Su-

laiman would fly to Manila next month for the 45th WBC Convention at the historic Manila Hotel.

He was there last in 1996 when Luisito Espinosa successfully defended his WBC featherweight crown at the Luneta against Cesar Soto.

Don Jose may also furfill his wish to be reunited with Erbito Salavarria, whom he calls one of the finest flyweights ever to win a world crown.

But, more than this, the WBC president could make his return to Manila truly significant if he makes a call and declaration on the setting up of boxing schools for a people that basks in the greatness of its boxing heroes.

Sorry, space has again run out, so the details of that Sulaiman winning formula will be revealed in a succeeding col-

Yankees turn back Orioles

broke out of a slump with a goahead homer, and Phil Hughes won his second straight start with help from a bullpen that escaped two bases-loaded jams as New York downed Baltimore, 8-5, Monday.

Alex Rodriguez tied his career high of 142 RBIs, Doug Mien-

Jorge Posada got three hits and Bobby Abreu drove in two runs as New York waited out an inconsistent Daniel Cabrera (9-17)

Derek Jeter singled and doubled, passing Bernie Williams for fourth place on the club's career list with

NEW YORK-HIDEKI MATSUI thiewicz hit a two-run single, 2,337 hits. The Yankees improved Robinson Cano had an RBI double, to a season-best 22 games over

> In Toronto, Frank Thomas hit three home runs to lift the Toronto B ue Jays over the Boston Red Sox, 6-1, raising his total to 512 and tying Erme Banks and Eddie Mathews for 18th on the career list.

Upbeat RP stars kick off Asian chess campaign

By Roy Luarca

MANDAUE CITY—FORGET ABOUT THE ratings; the Filipino players are determined to topple their touted foreign rivals when the 6th Asian Individual Chess Championships begin at the Cebu International Convention Center here.

Though no local woodpusher is ranked among the top 10, Grandmaster Eugene Torre believes the Filipinos have good chances of barging into the elite group that will advance to this year's World Chess Cup slated Nov. 22-Dec. 18 in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia

"This tournament is tough," said Torre. "But we'll do our best to perform beyond our seed. ing and represent the country in the World

Grandmaster Rogelio "Joey" Antomo, fresh off a victory in the Michigan Open early this month, concurred with Torre, adding that they have prepared hard for this \$40,000 tournament

The Philippine challenge got an unexpected boost when GM Mark Paragua cut short his campaign in the United States and arrived in Manila Monday night to join the 11-round championships being hosted by the country for the first time.

Attention will be focused on teen sensation Wesley So, who wound up board 1 gold medalist in last month's World Under 16 Olympiad held in Singapore. The 13-year-old So, also the reigning

Philippine Open champion, is eyeing his second GM result with fellow International Master and Turin Chess Olympian Oliver D makul-

Spearheading the foreign invasion are Super GMs Nia Hua (Elo 2681), Zhang Pengx. ang (Elo 2649) and Wang Hao (Elo 2624) of China and Super GM Ehsan Ghame Maghami

Indian GM Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Elo



Adianto (Elo 2583), Chinese GM Xu Jun (Elo 2574), Chinese GM Zhou Jiangchao (Elo 2572), Indian GM Chanda Sandıpan (Eio 2563) and Chinese GM Zhao Jun (Elo 2558). Torre, the only Fil-

iomo to reach the quarterfinals of the World Champi-

onships, totes an Elo of 2536, towing along Antonio (Elo 2532) and Paragua, who has supped to 2530 after breaking the 2600-barrier last year Also expected to contend are So (Elo

ino Sadorra (Ejo 2421), IM Ronald Bancod, Hamed Nouri, and Barlo Nadera. The Chinese and Indian contingents are expected to arrive in Manila Tuesday night in time

2516), D.makiling (Eio 2500), IM Julio Catal-

for Wednesday's 2 p.m. opening ceremonies. Cebu Gov. Gwen Garcia and National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Pros-

pero "Butch" Pichay will do the ceremonial Also expected to attend are (World Chess

Federation) Fide honorary lifetime president Florencio Campomanes, Fide general secretary Ignatius Leong, former NCPP president Go Teng Kok, NCFP secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolenting and sports patron Boone Lim-

Unable to come due to pressing commitments, Fide president Kasan Byumzhinov will be gracing the closing ceremonies instead on Sept. 29 The tournament is nacked by the Department of Tourism, Pageor Sports and Crown Regency Mandaue

PUPULA fashion designer Marc Ecko, known for making a dent on the hip-hop market, shows off the ball that will soondepending on your voteeither be Inducted into the Hall of Fame. possibly with an asterisk, or sont into orbit among



BONDS BALL

'Hall-of-Fame' it with an asterisk or blast it to space? It's your vote

LOS ANGELES-MARC ECKO, who bought Barry Bonds' recordbreaking homerun ball for \$752,467 dollars, has invited the public to decide the artifact's fate.

Ecko, a fashion designer known for publicity stunts, launched a website asking people to vote for one of three choices—giving the ball to the Basebali Hall of Pame, branding the ball with an asterisk to denote the steroid suspicions that surround Bonds and then giving it to the Hall, or blasting it into space.

Ecko, who bought the ball in an

on-line auction that closed on Saturday, says he will abide by the out come of the voting, which will end

"We all have opinions about this ball," Ecko said in an opening statement posted on the website, www.vote756.com. "Some feel it is a piece of history that belongs in the Hall of Fame. Others believe it is the embodiment of cheating culture. I bought this baseball to democratize the debate over what to do with it

and allow the public to decide." Bonds' pursuit of Hank Aaron's all-time record of 755 career home runs, which had stood for more than 30 years, had polarized baseball fans thanks to the unproven doping allegations that have dogged the Giants slugger

Matt Murphy, who caught the Bonds' ball on Aug. 7, says he'll vote to send the object to Cooperstown without an asterisk.

"Until he (Bonds) is proven guity, this ball is both prestigious and history," Murphy, 21, told the San Francisco Chronide in a telephone interview from his home in New York. AFP





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Yap nails Asian gold

world-ranked South Korean in a nerve-wracking shootout to win the men's compound gold in the 15th Asian Archery Championships in Xi-

Yap, the continent's No. 1 compound archer, nipped world No. 6 Kim Dong-kyu, 116-114, to become the first Filipino to bag an Asian championship gold.

A total of 39 archers from 12 countries yied for honors in the competition held Sept. 14 to 20 in the ancient Chinese city

On the way to the finals, Yap overwhelmed a Hong Kong archer, 114-98, and Iran's Parvis Maib-

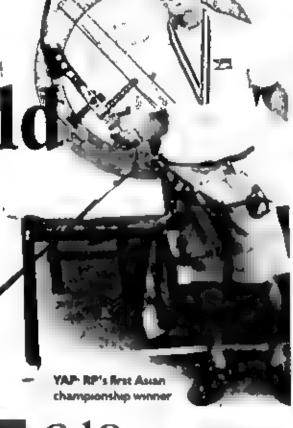
FILIPINO ARCHER EARL BENJAMIN YAP BEAT A di, 107-104, in the preliminaries, Majid Ahmadi, also of Iran, 111-109, in the quarterfinals; and still another Iranian, world No. 10 Resa Zamaninejad, 113-112, in the semifinals.

Yap battled Kim to a 29-29 tie after the first end of

The Filipino moved ahead by 3 points after the Korean bungled a shot in the second end, but saw his lead cut to 2 at the end of the third end.

Yap sewed up the gold by matching Kim's perfect fourth and final end with

Marc Anthony Reyes



CdO runner rules city's triathlon leg

LOCAL RUNNER NEIL CATIL TOPPED the Cagayan de Oro leg of the 2007 Speedo national Age Triath on series with a time of one hour, 35 minutes and 10 seconds over a record field of 97 participants

Coming out 10th from the swim event, the 21-year-old Cattil grabbed the lead in the bike portion and held on with lots to spare in the run phase of the 1-km swim, 30-km bike and 7.5-km run event held at the Chali Beach Resort.

He bested contestants from his province, Buludnon, Cebu, Pampanga, Davao and nearby towns of Agusan in the race organized by the CdO Triathlon group of Al Manaloto and Manolet Barrera

Ado.fo Minoza finished second in 1 38 28 and Roy Janubas third (1:42.30)

The NAGT series moves to Los Baños, Laguna on Sept. 29 and to Ayala Alabang Village on Oct. 14 for the final leg.

Other winners: Davao's Pater Villocino (19 and below), Cebu's Serabosing Dax Corp (25-29 years old) Rex Anthony Viliation (30-34, Roy Janubas (35-39). Minoza (40-44) Anastacio Bunai (45-49), Raif Veers (50-54), Jose Santos (55-59), Leslie Herrero (female 19 and below), Marie Grace Bascon (female 20-24), Lulani Grace Deleste (female 30 and above) and Temerio/Sanchez (team relay).

Lions keep UCAA semis hopes alive

QAMES TODAY (Olivarus Sports Complet) 10 a.m. PSBA vs Las Piñas College 11;30 s.m. Olivarez College vs EAC 1 p.m. ACSAT vs St. Francis 2:30 p.m. JCN vs La Salle-Daarne

LAS PIÑAS COLLEGE BEAT ST. FRANcis of Assisi College, 62-55, to stay in contention for a Final Four seat in the 6th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association (UCAA) men's basketba. tournament at the Olivarez College Sports Complex.

Triples from RJ Terez and Jonas Kintanar with 7,50 to go in the third canto keyed the Blue Lions' assault as they grabbed a 33-29 advantage en route to their fourth straight victory

LPC now shares fourth spot (6-4) with Philippine School of Business Administration, which pummeled La Saile-Dasmariñas, 81-68

Asian College of Science and Technology turned back Olivarez College, 81-76, to join St. Francis on top at 8-2

Ateneo vs DLSZ in UAAP jr finals

THE DE LA SALLE ZOBEL JUNIOR ARCHERS knocked off the Fur Eastern University Baby Tamaraws, 67-61, to arrange a title clash with defending champion Ateneo Blue Eaglets in the UAAP jumor basketball division.

DLSZ was the 2005 champion-its first after 50 years-but was unable to defend its crown last year because of La Saile's sus-Coach Borls Aldeguer said the finals will

be an exciting one because as will be the first time they will tangle with arch rival Ateneo in the finals. The best-of-three series will begin at 9 a.m.

on Saturday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium. The Junior Archers rector Jeffy Andays, Babby At-

bens, Collin Buckley, Gwayne Capacio, Joshua Cruz, Nico Elorde, Jeric Fortuna, Archi Go, Alid Herrera, Jed Manquerra, Masshi Dkubo, Mike Pardo, Martin Rodriguez, Joshua Webb and Rey Yap.



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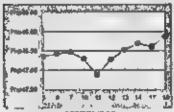
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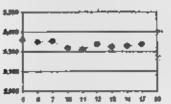
URRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE



STOCK MARKET PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SEPTEMBER (See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares drop 0.5%

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.5 percent lower as investors took profits, staying cautious just ahead of the United States Federal Reserve's decision on interest rates, dea era said

The spike in crude oil prices to a record peak above \$81 a barrel also renewed

concerns about energy costs, they added The Philippine composite index closed down 17.68 points at 3,289 75. The all-

share index fell 12 63 points to 2,074.94 There were 87 decliners and 26 gain-

ers, while 42 stocks were flat. Volume totaled 3.6 bill on shares worth P3.7 billion (\$79.7 million)

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ended up P5 at P2,710, off the day's high of P2,730. Shares in Ayaia Corp.

ended flat at P492 50 Investors also locked in gains in Metropo ftan Bank Trust Co., which fell 50 centavos to P50 50. San Miguet Corp.'s A

shares retreated P1 to P59.50, while its B shares fell P1 to P60.

World oil prices hit \$81/barrel

Opec move to boost output seen to be too little, too late

SINGAPORE—OIL PRICES TOPPED \$81 A BARREL FOR the first time on Tuesday, setting another record high amid fears of critically tight supplies for the winter season in the United States

Opec's announcement last week that it would pump an extra 500,000 barrels per day from November has failed to stop the surge in price, with some analysts predicting it could keep soaring to \$85 and beyond

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for October delivery, jumped 55 cents to \$81 12 in Singapore trade at 0335 GMT

The jump followed a run overnight in New York, when the contract spiked \$1 47 to \$80.57 per barrel after an earlier intra-day high of 80.70.

"The door to 80 has been opened,"

Purvin and Gertz Inc. energy consultants in Singapore He said the mood had changed

Monday as speculators drove up the price over concerns about tight supply in the winter months.

has limited downside supply could hit \$95 by the end of next year.

risks," he said.

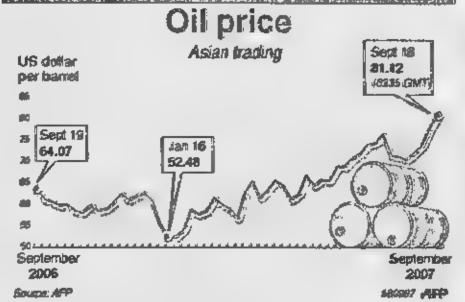
Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was 30 cents higher at \$77.28 a barrel.

Abdalla Salem El-Badri, chief of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), said Friday that \$80 a barrel for oil did not reflect the current supply and demand situa-

But Goldman Sachs analysts said the Opec decision to boost output came too late to keep prices down

"We believe that this will be too little, too late, barring an outright colsaid Victor Shum, semor principal at lapse in demand, and now expect inventories to draw to critical levels this winter," they wrote in an analyst

They said they were raising their yearend 2007 price forecast to \$85 per barrel, "with a high risk of a spike "In the near-term, the market above \$90 per barrel," and said crude



Shum said there were "widespread" worries" over the Goldman Sachs re-

"The mood got a lot more bullish,"

London-based analysts, the Centre for Global Energy Studies, said Monday that the world "will remain short of oil, and prices will continue to rise". unless Opec put enough crude onto the market at prices to attract buyers.

Investors are worried that crude supplies are inadequate to meet demand as winter approaches in the

United States, the world's biggest energy consumer, and other countries in the Northern Hemisphere,

Concerns spiked after the US Department of Energy reported last Wednesday that US crude inventories fell by a sharper-than-expected 7.1 million barrels during the previous

The drop was almost three times steeper than market expectations and came as the closure of several US refineries in the path of Hurricane Humberto also pressured prices. AFP

RP exports now less vulnerable to currency swings

By Doris C. Dumiao

THE IMPACT OF CURRENCY swings on the export performance of emerging economies in East Asia, particularly the Philippines, is on the wane, according to the Asian Development Bank

in its new study, ADB suggested that any movement in the ex-

change rate would not affect ex- the ADB publication Asian Devel- Philippines' exports while the imports from East Asia as much as it used to, adding that the emerging economies have become less vulnerable to risks.

The ball game now, according to ADB, has shifted to production

The report on export dynamics

opment Outlook, noted that the extent of real exchange rate links varied across the nine economies of East Asia-China, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and

the Plulippines.

"In general, the real exchange in East Asia, which appeared in rate has the least impact on the

pact is greatest in Indonesia," the study said "This is consistent with the fact that [Philippine] exports and imports have been dominated by parts and components over the past decade. The Philippines' exports are heavily concentrated in electrical ma-

₩ Gov't to borrow P72B in 4th quarter/B4

IN THIS ISSUE

■ 85€ incurs P50B in forex losses/B4 2 more tobacco

firms buck

tax order /B8

Improved tax collection leads gov't to post budget surplus

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT posted a budget surplus of P13.9 billion in August due to improved tax collection by major revenue

The Department of Finance yesterday reported that the surplus for the month was a result of the

P117.1 billion in revenue collected and P103.2 billion in expenditures.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the surplus for August suggested that the government could keep its full-year fisca, target of lamiting the budget deficit to only P63 billion, better than the P63.8 billion posted last year

But the surplus in August was

short of the target of P15.4 billion set by the Development Budget Coordination Committee—the agency tasked to program the government's economic and fiscal goals.

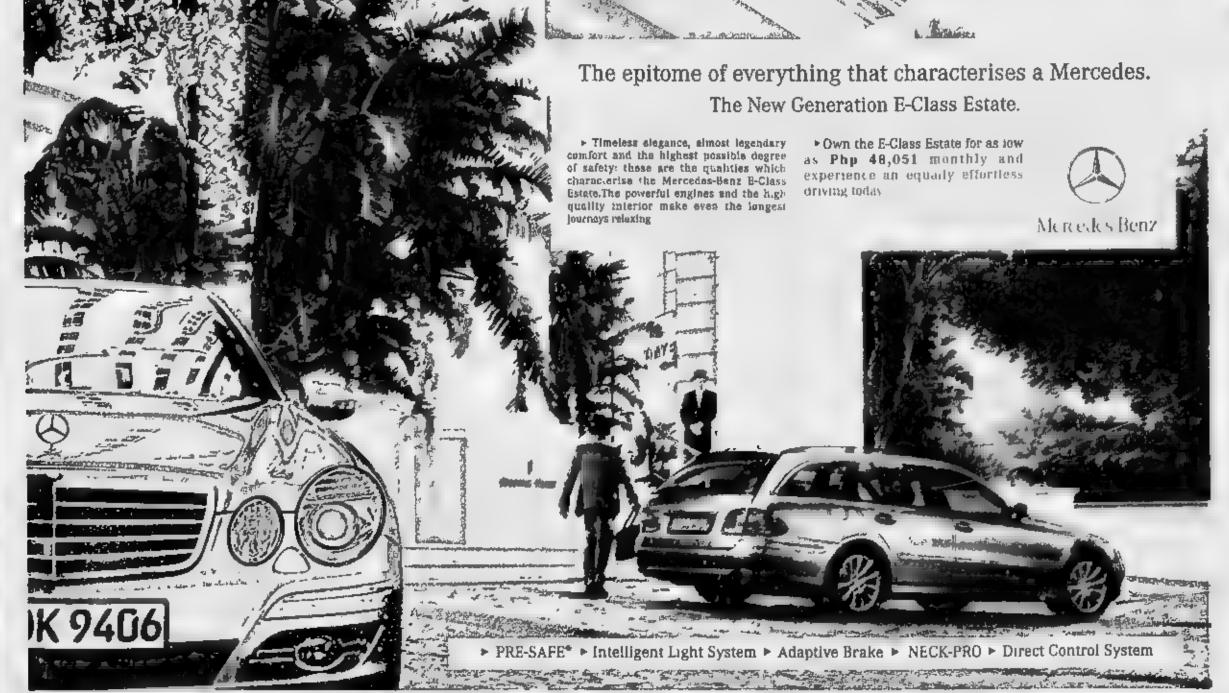
But according to Teves, what matters is the attainment of the official quarterly and full year goals, not the monthly targets. He said that, so far, the government was

confident of attaining the goals of limiting the third quarter deficit to P22.692 billion and the full-year deficit to P63 billion

The surplus for August brought the government's cumulative budget position to a deficit of P25.5 billion in the first eight months of the year-an improvement from the P39.4 bilbon incurred as of the first

seven months.

"We are happy to see that our efforts to intensify revenue collection are gradually producing results," Teves said in a press conference yesterday. "With the continued implementation of the action plans of the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and the BOC (Bureau of Customs),



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Legacy Ventures pours P1B into maiden property project

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

LEGACY VENTU- townhouse project and velopment Inc. is in-

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tional airport.

Legacy president Wilfredo yesterday said the units would be sold for about P52,000 per square meter or at least 98 million for a 161 square-meter unit.

The property is seen appreciating by about 10 percent in a year's time from turnover, Pineda said.

Legacy is offering a guarantee that if the property fails to appreciate after one year, it will buy back the unit from the customer at the original price.

Pineda also said the company will offer discounts especraily for cash payments and in-house financing

A total of 24 units that will constitute the first phase of the project—will be turned over to the buyer by the end of November Another 32 units will be turned over to the buyers in December All units will be completed by December 2008.

added that construction cost alone would amount to about P350 million.

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September 18, 2007 Country	Unk	Euro Egulvalent	Dollar Equivalent	Pesa Equivalent
United States	Dollar	- 0.721033	1.0000000	_48.2410
Japan	Yen	0.006250	9.008682	0.4015
United Kingdom	Pound	1.438244	1.994700	92,2368
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.092589	0.128411	5.9379
Switzerland	Franc	0.607287	0.842247	38.9463
Canada	Dollar	D.701666	0.973141	44 9990
Singapora	Dollar	0.475709	0.659761	_30 5080
Australia	Dollar	0.602517	0.835631	38.6404
Bahrain	Diner*	1.912705	2.652731	122.6649
Saudi Arabia	Ribit	, 0.192265	0.266652	12.3303_
Brunei	Dollar	0.474145	0.557592	30.4077
Indonesia	Ruptah	0.000077	0.000107	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022476	0.031172	1.4414
LAE	Dirham	0.196333	0.272294	12.5911
EU	Euro	1 000000	1.286900	84.1316
Korea	Won '	. 0.000777	0.001078	0.0498
China	Yuan**	0.095848	0.132931	6,1469
Denmark	Kroner	0.134266	0.186213	8.6107
India	Rupee	0.017825	0.024722	1,1432
Malaysia	Ringelt	0.206807	0.286821	13.2629
New Zealand	Dollar	0.510285	0.707714	32 7254
Sweden	Kroner	0.107675	0.149334	6.9054
Tarwan	Nt Dollar	0.021797	0.030230	1,8979

649,509.970.00

Source: Senters' large classing prices as of NY stone—Sope, 17, 2003 44 Auton these closing rate as of Empt. 17, 2007

BUSINESS

Improved ...

From page B1

from privatization, we are confitarget of keeping the budget maining P16.6 billion.

deficit at P63 billion this year."

Of the P117.1 billion revenue collected in August, the BIR acas well as the additional revenues counted for P79.5 billion. The BOC accounted for P20.9 billion dent we will be able to sustain of total revenue for the month. thus performance until the end of The Bureau of the Treasury and the year, and help us achieve our other offices accounted for the re-

RP exports now less vulnerable to currency swings chanery with a high reliance on pressed in a common currency.

imported components."

group of countries, both ex- of multinational enterprises.

in contrast, the ADB said inbroad summary measure of the diversification in its export basker prices of one country relative to and had been slow in joining inthe prices of another or to a ternational production networks

exchange rate, the ADB said.

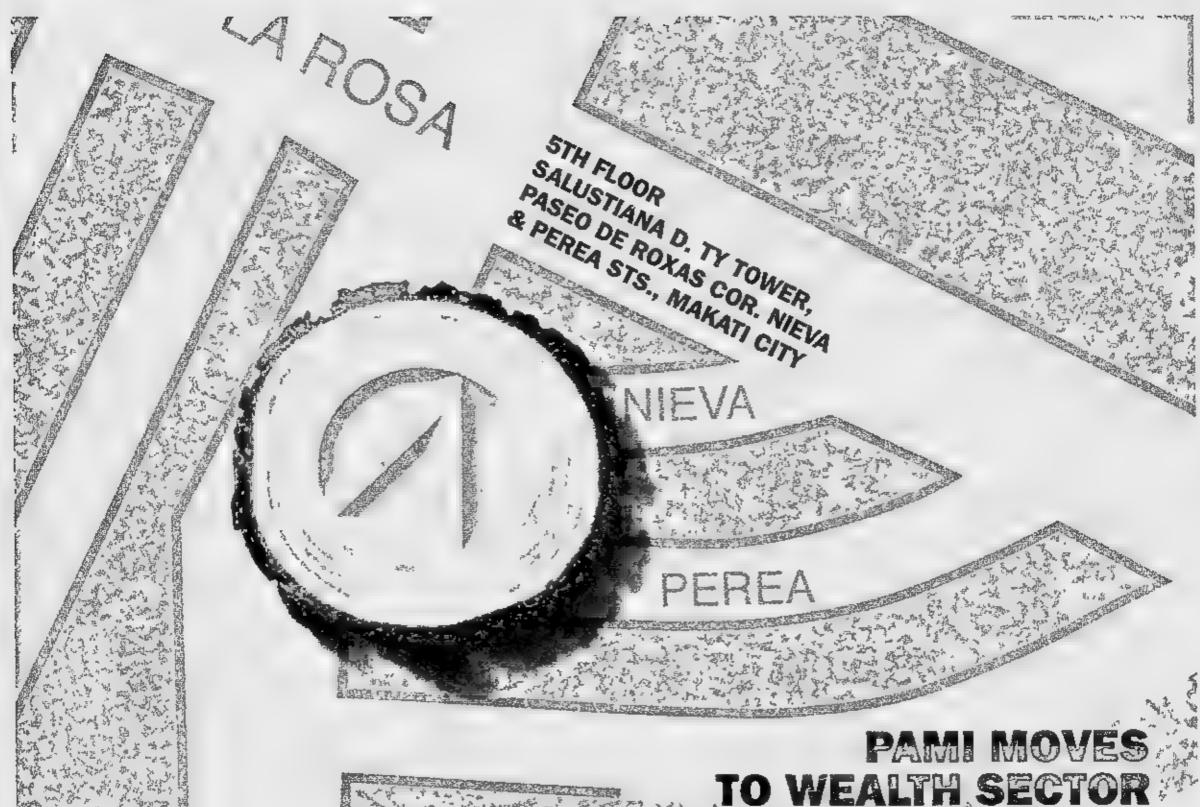
The reliance on primary and ity measures) as becoming more traditional manufactured exports important influences on the re-The real exchange rate is a donesia had much greater product was possibly making Indonesian gion's export performance than exports more sensitive to the real movements in the real exchange rate, as production networks of The results point to supply- multinational enterprises ex-



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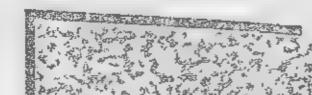




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BUSINESS

I-Remit opens office in Vienna

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

FINANCIAL SERVICES FIRM I-REMIT INC. (iRemit) yesterday sald it had opened an office in Vienna, Austria to expand its reach in Europe.

The move is part of iRemit's efforts to enhance strategic marketing alliances and initiatives in countries thickly populated by Filipinos.

The Filipino population in Austria was estimated at 30,000, composed mainly of female nurses and their families. The company said this was expected to further expand.

The new (Remit office is located at the heart of the city, between the Philippine Embassy and St. Stephen's Cathedral where most Filipinos congregate. It is also a popular tourist area.

Since it entered the market in 2001, Remit has successfully grown its business by providing a more efficient and reliable service to Filipinos at very competitive

iRemit has been expanding aggressively to reach a greater number of Filipmos overseas and to provide them with first-class remittance services.

The company now operates in 24 countries, including those in Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East and North America.

Gov't to borrow P72B in 4th quarter

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT IS SCHEDULED TO borrow P72 billion from the domestic capital market in the fourth quarter to complete its financing program for the entire year.

For the third quarter, the programmed domestic borrowings were set at P82 billion.

Under its borrowing program for 2007, the government had targeted to raise P260 1 billion from the domestic capital market through the sale of treasury bills and bonds and another P130.7 billion from foreign sources.

The government borrows money to fund expenditures that could not be covered by its revenues, and to pay maturing obligations.

The government's budget deficit is expected to reach only P63 billion this year, lower than last year's P64.8 billion. This means the TAN bigger portion of government borrowings was earmarked for debt servicing.

Foreign funds are raised through the flotation of sovereign bonds in the global market and tapping official development assistance from multilateral and bilateral institutions.

The biggest sources of ODAs are the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank.

Finance Undersecretary and acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the gov- deficit projection.

government securities in previous months.

The government said that although tax collection agencies did not meet their targets in the first semester, measures to improve tax collection in the second half and efforts to privatize state assets were seen to enable the country to hit meet its budget



ernment's domestic borrowings this year could be lower than the programmed P260 1 billion due to failed auctions for

BTr rejects bids for 5-yr T-bonds

THE GOVERNMENT RE- yesterday's auction. jected all bids for the fiveyear treasury bonds yester- be seeking too much increase terest rates.

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee ac- nance said the government cepted the bids, the rate for the was on track to meeting its five-year bonds could have hit goal of reducing its budget 6.756 percent, up 78.9 basis deficit to P63 billion this year points from the 5.967 percent after tax collections in July recorded in the last auction for and August recovered from these bonds in May.

Finance Undersecretary and acting National Treasurer Roberto Tan said the government could opt not to borrow if the rates were too high as the state's cash position was still healthy

Tenders for the five-year bonds reached P16 105 bilhon, while the debt offering was only P7 billion.

"The rates they were asking for were not acceptable," Tan said in a briefing after hon.

Banks, he said, should not day, saying the market was in interest rates considering seeking for absurdly high in- the government's positive fiscal position.

The Department of Pithe shortfalls in the first half.

Tan also said there were expectations that the US Federal Reserve would ease its monetary policy in its next board meeting to reverse the ongoing slowdown in the US economy. This should result in lower domestic interest

He said the government's programmed borrowings for the year was set at P260 bil-Michelle V. Remo

Bangko Sentral incurs P50B in forex losses

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS posted P50 billion in foreign exchange losses from January to July due to its buying of excess US dollars in the system to temper the peso's appreciation, the central bank's latest unaudited financial statement showed.

In the first semester, the BSP's forex losses were placed at P32 billion and this widened further in July as it stepped up its buying operations in view of the continued

Filipinos and of foreign exchange investments in the stock market.

The forex losses—the biggest incurred by the BSP so far-translated to a net deficit of P39.2 billion for the central bank in the first seven months. The BSP posted a P7-billion net profit in the same period last year.

But excluding the impact of foreign exchange transactions, the BSP would have posted a net profit of P10.66 billion during the period. From January to July, its rev-

strong inflows of remittances from overseas enue amounted to P44.7 billion as against expenses worth P34,04 billion.

Since the start of the year, the BSP has been. heavily buying dollars at the spot foreign exchange market to temper sharp foreign exchange fluctuations even when the greenback had been on a downtrend. The peso has nevertheless risen by around 5 percent against the US dollar since the start of this year.

The BSP's heavy dollar-buying resulted in the rise of the country's forex reserves, which hit \$30 billion in end-August.

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SSS: All's well that ends well

IT ALL STARTED WHEN THE Gokongwei and Lopez groups wanted to sell their holdings totaling 72 percent of Philippine Commercial and Industria. Bank. PCI was saddled with huge dollar borrowings which were being lent out in pesos. It was getting clobbered as the peso weakened in relation to the

Equitable Bank wanted to buy out Gokongwei and Lopez, but did not have enough resources. The SSS and the GSIS agreed to invest P8 billion each, or a total of P16 billion, into a joint venture with Equitable to acquire PCI

To raise the cash, the SSS borterm market. This was probably the only time in the whore, wide world when a social security system borrowed short-term money. When the short-term loan fell due, the SSS had to sell its inventory of prime stocks, such as Ayala, Meralco and PLDT

The purchase of PCI went through. To the SSS, the acquisition cost of the merged bank. was P87 per share. After the merger, the value of the share started dropping at the exchanges. The SSS foolishly decided to prop up the share by buying more shares. But even the SSS did not have the resources to keep propping up the share. By the time the SSS gave up, it had doubled its holdings to P16 billion.

On the other hand, the GSIS stood pat with its original holdings.

The SSS kept digging for itself a deeper and deeper hole, as it held on to the shares while the value plummeted, breaking its own inhouse rule to unload if a share dropped beyond a certain point.

When the share was quoted at P33 per share, Banco de Oro, acting as the white knight coming to save a maiden fair, offered to pay P43 per share in

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES Honesto C. General

cold cash. But the SSS could not agree as the books would have to show a loss of 50 percent of acquisition cost. This would result in cutting the operating budget, which the SSS was in no mood to do. So, an installment plan was

cooked. BDO was to pay P1.0 billion as down payment and the rowed P4 billion from the short P7.0 billion balance was to be paid over seven years at 9 percent interest a year. This accounting witchcraft was supposed to wipe out the prospective loss.

The Philippine Association of Retired Persons (PARP) got a Makati Regional Court to block the BDO/SSS agreement.

PARP brought the case to Sen. Sergio Osmefia III, who got interested. His committee held several public hearings. Finally, Senators Flavier, Biazon, Lim (now Manila mayor) and Madngal, and civilians Luis and Patricia Sison, joined Senator Osmeña in bringing the case to the Supreme Court.

Last week, in a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled that the case had become moot and academic.

The decision opens the way for finalizing BDO's latest offer of P92 per share, or a total of P17.3 billion (now actually being held by the SSS in escrow)

The SSS is now awash with eash. Its books will now balance without accounting sleight-ofhand Best of all, the retirees will get their 10-percent across-theboard increase in pensions as promised in the last electoral campaign. All's well that ends well.

Local call center puts up affiliate in US

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A HOMEGROWN CALL CENTER operator yesterday said it had pur up an affiliate in the United States in preparation for the expansion of its operations in that market.

Gary Manansala, general manager of WinSource Solutions Inc. (WSI), said the company had established WinSource Solutions USA Inc. to initially serve as a marketing arm in the United States.

"(WinSource USA) would eventually be the focal point of our US-based initiatives," Manansala said.

Asked why the firm is expanding to the United States when foreign call center firms are putting up their operations here to take advantage of the, based call center."

lower costs, Manansala said the goal was to tap markets rather than to minimize expenses.

"There is still a large part of the outsourcing market in the US that is untapped, but many of the potential clients preferred dealing with a US company," he said.

WSI currently operates a 300-seat call center at the Robinsons Cybergate Center in Mandaluyong City, mainly offering customer support.

"WSI is looking to leverage on the operations of Winsource USA for further expansion of its operations in North America in the foreseeable future," Manansala explained. "A core objective for WinSource USA is to facilitate the acquisition of a US

Poultry sector seeks increased agri investments

By Amy R. Remo

THE POULTRY SECtor has urged the government to invest heavily in the production of corn. coconut oil and mo- puts lasses to address the ammo rising cost of com- choline, modities.

paper submitted to said. "On the other Agriculture Secre- hand, it is also an tary Arthur C. Yap, opportunity the United Broiler cause the prices of Raisers' Association competing chicken and National Egg Boards explained that "with the rise of China, India and Russia, there has tunity for Philippine been an upward

agricultural and industrial."

"On the because it increases the costs of feed inlike soya. acids, toxin binders and other In a joint position feed additives," it

products have also been rising." But for such trends to become an opporpoultry industry, trend in the prices of there must

commodities, both greater investments in agriculture.

The Ubra and Egg Boards also said there hand, this is a threat was a need to extend Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

> Acef, under RA 8178, is set to expire additional producat the end of the year. tion," the paper said.

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"The Acef can be an additional war chest for the Agriculture secretary to target specific provinces or regions that could the nation give fastest and highest returns in terms of

tapped for irrigation, farm-to-market roads, post-harvest equipment and research and devel-

Ubra and the Egg Board said in the paper that if both the government and the

The Acef can be private sector ad- sectors such as corn, not only the Philippine poultry sector but also its allied

dress these con- coco oil, molasses, cerns, it will benefit veterinary pharmaceuticals and equipment manufactur-

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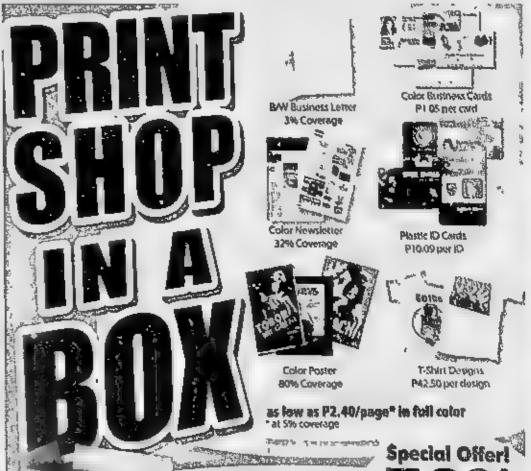
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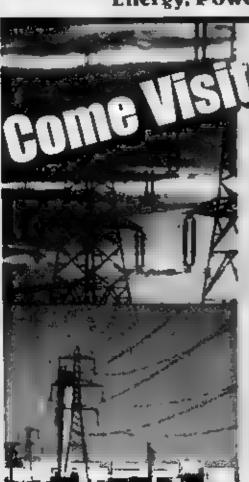
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The CHAPEL of

PADRE PIO and

would like to invite

Fr. Teo Rustia

at 12 noon.

anticipation of the

23rd of September.

Makati City.

everyone to a Healing Mass to be officiated by

to be held on Friday,

This mass will be held in

Feast of St. Padre Pio on the

The chapel is located at the

For further details, you may

call (632) 895.86.84

4th Floor of Goodwill Building

September 21, 2007



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), Invites suppliers/merufacturers/contractors to apply

107 Bligiolity and to bio it	
Name of Project/ Brief Description	One (1) lot Supply, delivery and installation of various Kitchen Equipment and Appliances at the Security Plant Complex Dining and Staff Dining Hails located at East Avenue, Of iman, Quezon City, per BSP Scope of Work, Equipment Specifications, MEP Schedules and Drawings
Approved Budget for the Contract	P8,810,608 00
Completion Period	Within 120 calendar days after receipt of the approved contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken at least three (3) similar requirements awarded and completed from Y1997 to present, one of which costs at least 50% of the ABC. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Prefininary Examination of Bids shall use nondiscretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. No. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is asied, as follows:					
	Activities	Schedule			
1,	(ssuance of	Starting 19 September 2007,			
	Bid Documents	up to 2.00 p.m. only			
2	Site Inspection	27 & 28 September 2007			
3.	Pre-bid Conference	5 October 2007, 10:00 a.m.			
Э.	Opening of Bids	23 October 2007, 2:00 p.m.			
4	Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the			
5	Post-gua lication	prescribed periods allowed in the			
8	Notice of Award	Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003.			

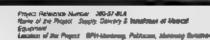
Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,410.00 to the BSP Cashier

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a faiture, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this pyltation

> (Sod.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR. Cha rman

[PDI - Sept. 18, 2007]



No. 15 Standard Form Number SF-GCCO-05 Revised on: July 28, 2004

INVERNITIES TO APPLY FOR ELECTRICITY AND TO REC

The Provincial Government of Bulednon, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites supplines mamulacourers/distributions/contractions to apply for eligibility and its bid for the hereunder projects.

Buggly, Delivery & Installation of Medical Equipment Name of Project Description/Location of the Project: Mater Bath, Patient Monitor with BP ECG, Capnograph. Purse Oxmoter, Table Top Autoclave Stanlage; Od-Hydraulic Detivery Table (1914 605). Winghing Scale, physicien type Height Scale, Low Speed Handpiece, Resuscitator, Packe, Emergency Carl, stanlass steel. Utalital dilatation set, stanlass steel. (all sizes) Gautery Identina (derma) Fiber-opic Headight with Projector Onthopedic bed. Ultra Violet Lamp with Stand, High back cheir révolving, Muster, stemiess steet, Vascular Clemp. Stemiess Steel Intestrual Clemp. Stainless Steel Trachaostomy, neonale, padia, adult, stainless steel, Renmers, size. 8, 9, 10, 11. (Ortho, stainless stept. Dermatome, stamtess steet, Lowmans, big. stainless steet, Rib Retractor Pada (Thoracic Surgery) Pub Retractor. Adult (Thoracic Surgery) Pub Approximator, Adult (Thoracic Surgery) Pub Approximator. Pada (Thoracic Surgery) Gomeo Thoracic pump (Thoracic Surgery) Pari Steinless steel (medium), Kelly pad Basin, steinless steel, Wheeler Chair with brake & IV stand Shalen's charf (picture chart for illustrate) Drop Light (gooseneck), Fatoscope, Medical Chart Rackstamless steel (50 charts capacity) infusable inhisor Medicine Iray 40 holes capacity Thoracolomy Oxygen lank carnage, single Pichardson Retractor, big siemiess steet, Army Nevy Retractor, stainless steet, EXAMINING TABLE fuchary stone forcep sets (all sizes), PULSE OXIMETER with adjustable sensor for pedia & adult, Deaver Febracion targe, staintess steef Made in Germany, USA, Japon and Koraa only for the BPH- Maramag,

North Poblacion, Maramag, Buildnon, Approved Budget for the Contract

Three Million Five Hundred Eighty One Thousand

Filtren (15) Calendar Dises upon regulat of Matter to Progress Project Completion/Duration Prospective bidders should have experience in undertailing a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pess/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the

lowest calculated bid shall be conducted. All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bild Security, Pre-Bildding Conference Performance Security. Evaluation of Eds., Post-Cualification and Award of Contact; shall be governed by the performance of FLA. 9" 84 and its implementang Rules and Regulation (RRF).

THE CONTRACTO BOTTOME OF ACTION OF ACTION ACTION OF THE CONTRACTOR				
1 Afrentsonani	September 13-19, 2007	Provinced Website, GEPS, Writing of PGSD PGO, PEO & BAC Office		
2. Hymorus of Bir Baracaupts	September 13-20, 2007	Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capital, Maloybellay City		
3. Pre-bidding Conference	Segtember 21, 2007	BAC Conference Room, Provinced Capital, Malcykaloy City		
4. Opening of fligh Descripe for Submission of Circle	October 1, 2007 10:00 SM. Rol John then 9:30 SM.	BAC conference Boom, Provincial Copinal, Makeyboloy Chy		

Bid documents will be even able to prospective hiddens upon payment of non-refundable 3rd documents less in the amount of One Thousand Pesos (P 1,000.00). For largery, Plesse call Telephone Mos. 186-221-2537 and 088-221-4820. The <u>Provencest Government of Bulandings</u> assumes no responsibility whatsouver to comparisate or indecembly

bidders for any expenses arounded in the preparation of the bid. (Sgd., JOSEFREDIE F. FLORES

(PDE-Bept. 19, 3007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC





BAC Continue

LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA

This is to inform the public that LIEZEL DUPAY VITALIS & ELLEN GRACE VILLA CASANDRA, whose pictures appear above we on longer connected with CANYON WOODS RESIDENTIAL RESORT, including its all affiliates project effective September 19, 2007 and September 2, 2007

Please be informed that our company will not bonor any transaction made by them on our behalf after the said dates.

(PDI September 16 & 19, 2807)

J.K. YURI (Subic) International Inc. Bidg. #8263 Upper Cub! Area, Subic Bay Freeport Zone is in read of:



Qualifications: Can could all kinds of dishes Responsible and hardworking Text or Call 09192251418 Look for Dolly

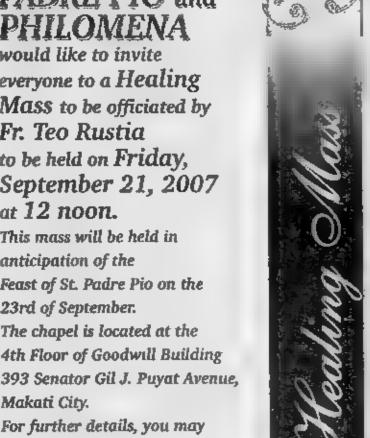












SULTAN KUDARAT ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Tecurong City Sultan Kudarat Tels: 064-200-3155/4050: 064-477-0326, Fax: 064-200-3156

INVITATION FOR BIG

The Sullan Kudaret Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SUKELCO) invites Sealed Bids from Etigible Bidders for different projects funded under approved NEA toan.

 System appraising at Municipality of Isulan, Kwh Meters relocation with maximum material cost of P11.246.921 69

Full delivery of materials

Terms of payment Three equal installment within 90 days. 1st installment upon delivery 2nd Inslatiment aller 60 days Full payment

Interested eligible bidders may obtain additional information and Inspect Bidding Documents at the office of the ISO Manager/SAC Chalman Gula R. Victorio

Bidding Documents may be purchased starting September 26, 2007 by an interested Eligible Bidder to the BAC Chairman and upon payment of Non-refundable pay of P3,500.00

Sealed envelopes containing the technical and financial proposals in separate envelopes duty marked as such will be received by the BAC at the Board Room on or before 10 00 a.m. on October 12, 2007 at which time and place the technical proposals will be opened and evaluated. The financial proposats of bidders found eligible to bid will then be opened and read in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to altend otherwise, they will be returned unopened to ineligible bidders

A pre-bid conference will be held on October 2, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. at

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security, in cash or bid security shall be valid at least 150 days starting from the date of bid

The Sullan Kudarat Electric Cooperative, Inc. hereby reserves the right to reject any of all bids without disclosing any reason, to waive any minor detects of infirmities therein and to accept such bid as may considered most advantageous to the cooperative.

(Sgd.) GUIA R. VICTORIO BAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sad.) DEMETRIO O. JEREZ, PEE General Manager

(POI Sept. 15 & 24, 2007)



Republic of the Phripogra DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH Contactor Health Development - Central Visayas Osmaña Blvd., Cabu Cily



MATCHER OF ALLEY OF THE CLUSTERIOUS AND TO BE ASS

The DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - CENTRAL VISAYAS (DOH-CV), Unlough to Bids and Avends Committee (BAC), invites suppliers to apply for eligibility and to re-bid for the hereunder project:

CATERING SERVICE FOR DOH-CHD CENTRAL Name of Project

VISAYAS PROGRAMS/ACTIVITIES/PROJECTS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR - (SECOND RE BIDDING) Location Cabu City

Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) PhP2,937,008.90 Contract Duration One Year

Prospective bidders should have experience is undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of all teast 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Ekgibility Check/Screening as well as the Pretminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" oriteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security Performance Security Pre-Bridding Conference, Evaluation of 8-ds, Post-Qualification and Award of Coniract shall be governed by the persinent provisions of RIA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows

Activities	Schedule		
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	September 19-25, 2007 DOH-CV, Denochs Bird., Cebu City		
2. Pre-bid Conference	None (This is a second re-bloding. Pre-bidding may be conducted if requested by prospective bidders.)		
3. Opening of Bids	October 2, 2007 at 2:90 p.m. Tugas Conterence Room, DOH-CV, Osmeta Bird., Cebu City		
Bid Occuments will be available on	ly to prospective bidders open payment of a non-		

refundable amount of Php 2,000 00 in cash to the DOH-CV Cashier

The Department of Health - Central Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of

Dates of Posting: September 10-26, 2007. Department of Health - Central Visayes Mrs. Ekzabeth P. Tabaté - BAC Secretoral Chairperson Osmeča Blvd., Cebu City Telephone No. (032) 253-6359

miggerson@yahoo.com [032] 263-3419 Telelix www.chd? dob gov.ph

[Sqd.] ENGR. MIGUEL T. GERSON **BAC Charman**

(POI Sept. 18, 2007)

722-1144 or 722-1165



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT National Capital Region DY Inth Bidg., 1650 San Marcelino cor. General Malvar St., Maiate, Menta

OTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S

7	FOR ALIEN EMPLOYM		
Ш	Notice is hereby given that the sled with this Regional Office app	following companies. lication/s for Alien Em	/amployers have ployment Permit/
2	Name and address of N Company/Employer Nat	eme of Fereign lenel/Citizenehip	Position
44.6	PACIFIC STAR & SEO HYUN TOUR CORP 4/F Corelown Bidg. 2822 EDSA Extension, Pasay City	Sconghae Lae Koreen	Tour Operation Manager
	POYRY ENERGY INC. B/F Kings Court 1 Bidg., 2129 Pasong Tamo St., Makeli City	Richard William Brockwell British	Construction Manager
ı	KITCHEN SUPERCENTER, INC. 8006 Pioneer St. cor: Utulad & Brixton Sts., Pasig City	Xingyong Li Chinese	Maintenance Tear Leader
2	YEAN ENERGY CORPORATION 5/F CYC Blog. 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City	Yoshikazu Handa Japanese	Advisor
	TEAM ENERGY CORPORATION 5/F CTC Bidg., 2232 Roxas Bivd., Passy City	Katsuya Harada Japanese	Vice President- Treasury
	INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION 22/F Burgundy Corporate Tower, 252 Sen. Gil Puyal Ave., Mekati City	Kuang-Yang Chen Talwanese	Systems Enginee
ı	CAMOX PHILIPPINES INC. 1646 Evangelists cor Belannino Sts., Bangkat, Makati City	Jude Aristotle Alemao Indian	Consultent
7	GEIL CHUNG INTERNATIONAL CORP.	Hyun Chesi Park Korean	General Manager

Roxas Slvd., Pasay City Asst General GEIL CHUNG INTERNATIONAL Hui Sung Chun CORP Koraan Manader Rm 209 Antel Seaview Tower. Roxas Blvd., Pasay City BRISBANE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

Am. 209 Antel Seaview Tower,

Dennis Henry Hickman General Manager U-1502 OMM Catra Bldg., San Miguel Ave., Orugas Ctr., Pasig City NDE DIGI-TECH, INC. Takeshi Inoue Quality Control Unit 209 Plaza B. Japanese Manager

Northgate Cyberzone, Alabang, Muntinlupa City GONGAN INTERIOR INC. General Manager Hyun Kyung An 11/F Legaspi Tower, 300 Roxas Blvd., Manila

Chief Cook

Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City Regional Financial KLM ROYAL DUTCH AIRLINES Danny Flavosteijin 39/F Yuchengco Tower, Controller South RCBC Plaza, Makati City China Sea

SONG DO KOREAN RESTAURANT GI-Young Bee

ADB Ave., cor. J. Vargas Ave.,

3/F #25 Bautista cor Gil Puyat Ave.,

Legaspi Village, Mekati City

AIR DRILLING ASSOCIATES Jason Scott Moornish Air Drilling New Zeelander 7/F SGV Bidg. II, 6758 Ayela Ave., Makati City INTERNATIONAL TRAINING Michael Frederic Marty Corporate Susiness

& HNOVATION CONSULTING, INC. SWISS Trainer 10/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City Executive Producer CONCEPT ONE MANAGEMENT Richard Adam SERVICES Ostrowski.

American

Makati City SUSHI KAPPO KOBIKI-CHO, INC. Yusuka Hino Chel G-3 Jaka II Bldg., Legaspi St., Japanese

SONY PHILIPPINES, INC. Menager Learne Mahoney 8/F Net Square Bidg., Call Centre American 3rd Ave. cor 28th St., Crescent Park West, Bonilacio Global City, Taguig City TIRUPATI INT'L., INC. Saurabh Madnani Manager for import

Veca Blog., Pasong Tamo Indian & Export cor. Estretta SL, San Antonio Village, Makati City If you have any information/objection to the above mentioned application/s

please communicate with the Regional Director.



PPDI-September 19,2007)

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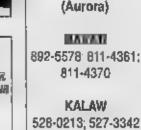
Indicative Trice : P4,628,000.00 - un 9/19/2007 For impairies: Pls. call Ms. Late or Ms. Star at telephone no. 811-9000

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OB



MICHAEL ABLAZA OSMEÑA



President and Vice Chairman of the Board Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC)

Member, Board of Directors, Philippine National Bank (PNB)
Former Director, Philippine Bank of Communications (PBCom)
Former President, Alabang Country Club, Inc.
Director and Vice President – Finance, Federation of Golf Clubs in the Philippines
Former Senior Vice President, ABN-AMRO Bank
Former Senior Vice President, BA Savings Bank
Former Assistant President, Citibank N.A.

Peacefully joined our Creator and his loving mother, DRA. DOLORES ABLAZA OSMEÑA (†) at 5:00 p.m., September 17, 2007.

His loving Wife CHERRY MAPUA; Sons RAMON, ANTON and STEFAN; father ATTY. RAMON M. OSMEÑA; Siblings ANNABELLE and RICHARD B. NELSON; MARILES and RAFFY AGUADO; RAYMOND, TRIXIE (†), and CHINGGAY and PINCUS LIBORO; Mother-in-law LULA; Brothers and sisters-in-law STEVE, STELLA, JIMMY, LISA, MIKE and RAFFY and their spouses, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Parañ Ayala

His cremated remains will lie in state at Manila Memorial Funeraria Paz Sucat, Parañaque. Interment will be on Saturday, September 22, 2007 at St. James the Great Church, Ayala Alabang Village after the 9:00 a.m. Funeral Mass.



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fitting
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your
departed
loved one

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INQUIRER
OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

O Copy of Death

Certificate

8 Any identification document (LD.)

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LYDIA GONZALEZ SEMPIO

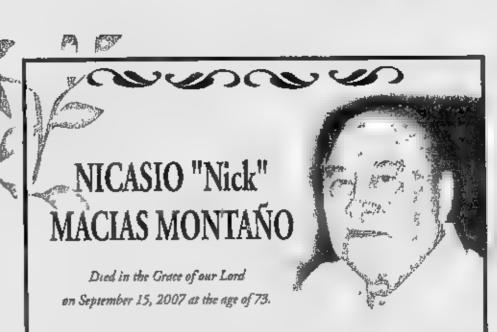
Joined her Creator on September 16, 2007 at the age of 82.

Her bereaved children Herminia, Rustica, Corazon, Blandina, Aurora, Marcelina, Eugenia, Rosalinda, Camila, Marcelo and Joseph; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes, Cagayan de Oro City.

Interment will be today, September 19, 2007 at Cagayan de Oro Gardens, Cagayan de Oro City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

A10



His loving wife Rosalinda Aseniero Montaño (†); children Thaddens & Joanne, Pancratius & Gina, Stephen & Parah Mae, Lourdes & Louie, Francisco & Anne Marie, Catherine & Steven; grandchildren Marie France, Camille, Luis, Manolo, Thomas Jude, Ma. Beatriz, Nico, Mariella, Anna, Mikee, Martha, Paolo & Jose Martin; siblings Antonio (†) & Elizabeth, Lucia (†) & Ricardo (†), Teresita & Rodaballo (†), Dolores & Heracleo (†), Jose (†) & Herminia, all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul His remains lie in state at his residence in Turno, Dipolog City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at Our Mally of Farima Parish Church, Turno, Dipolog City.



CLASSIFIEDS

More Classified Ads:

AFP Modernization Program PSALM-IAEB- Procurement of Desktop and Notebook Computers, Printers and Projectors PSALM-IAEB- Supply, Delivery, Installation and

Commissioning of Server, Bandwidth Manager
and Hard Drive For xSeries Server
A18
PSALM-IAEB- Supply, Delivery and Installation of
Bar Code Scanner/Printer and Biometric Finger Scanner
A18
PSALM-IAEB- Procurement of Video,
Digital and OSLR Cameres
A19
Ramon Sia- Bicol Medical Center
Department of Labor and Employment
A21
Home Guaranty
A21

Architect FRANCISCO VERGARA ANGELES

Died in the Grace of Our Lord on September 7, 2007 at the age of 87

His bereaved wife Lolita (nee Vitug), children Domingo, Rosario, Manuel, Romeo, Jorge, Aurora, Feome, Ramon, Gul, Alma & Agnes and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City, Chapel IA. Interment will be on Sunday,

September 23, 2007, 9 00 a m at Manila North Cemetery.



MAKE OF BOOLAGED	ALACE OF VEHICLE	INTERMENTICALMATION BAYE I TIME PLACE				
OR RENATO ANDRES	Chapel 1	Sept. 19, 2007 6:06 a.m.	Paz Crematory			
DR. JUAN C. LAMASAN, JR.	Imperial Classic Chape)	Sept 19, 2007 after the 9:00 a.m. Mans	Loyola Momerial Park, Mankirja			

"Cearnal life will swallow up that which was die God wallo up for this every reason and No has given a the Specie is a marenter that we will live again.

2 Cortiflians 5:4-5

unlimited lifestyle options... tobacco



Two more tobacco firms buck tax order

By Michelle V. Remo

TWO MORE CIGARETTE MANUFACTUR-

TWO MORE CIGARETTE MANUFACTURers have asked the Department of Finance to reconsider its decision to lower the excise tax on Pall Mall cigarettes produced by competitor British American Tobacco (BAT).

Associated Anglo-American Tobacco Corp. (Anglo-American) and Japan Tobacco International Philippines (JTI) said in separate letters to Finance Secretary Margarito Teves that his office erred when it allowed BAT to pay a lower excise tax rate.

The appeal made by the two cigarette makers echoed a similar complaint raised earlier by Fortune Tobacco and Philip Morns

"We would like to express our support to the request of Philip Morris and Fortune Tobacco for a reconsideration of the ruling and respectfully ask the Department of Finance to reverse its decision on the matter," said Hamish Moore, JT! general manager, in the Sept. 14 letter to Teves.

JFI is the licensor of the Camel and Winston cigarette brands. Anglo-American, on the other hand, manufactures lower-priced cigarette brands, including Asia Boston Menthol 100's, Casino Royale Filter King, Baiasang Filter, Villa Escudero Menthol King, Baiata Filter and Balita Matamis.

The complaint stemmed from the DOF's decision to lower the excise tax rate on Pa.! Mall cigarettes to P6.74 a pack from P26 a pack when Pall Mall was imported and sold by duty-free shops.

Seipi pushes nuke power generation

By Abigail L. Ho

THE SEMICONDUCTOR AND ELECTRONic Industries of the Philippines Inc. (Seipi) is urging the government to venture into nuclear power generation, saying this is the only way for the country to have competitive power rates in the long term.

Seipi chair Arthur Young said in an interview that the country's power rates remained among the highest in the region, despite recent efforts to reduce power rates for industries.

For the country to become more competitive and to stay that way in the next 10-15 years, he said the government should seriously consider nuclear power generation.

"Nuclear power would be one way for the country to remain competitive in the next 10-15 years. Otherwise, we don't see any alternative. Natural gas is one, but we only have a limited supply (of that) Geothermal is also good and solar also, but it's quite expensive," he said.

He added that current technology allows governments to tap nuclear power resources without compromising the safety of people and the environment.

If the country would not start a nuclear power program soon, he said countries such as Vietnam and Taiwan would likely dislodge the Philippines from the radar of possible locators, considering that power accounts for around 10-20 percent of a company's costs.

The Department of Energy will be creating a special group that will be tasked with studying the feasibility of harnessing nuclear resources for power generation, including the possibility of refiring the 620megawatt Bataan Nuclear Power Plant

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The 'tough' visits the fearless'

By Tessa R. Salazar

HE FORMER VIETNAM War veteran certainly looked towering from a distance, and he loomed even larger as he, along with the other Ford Group Philippines delegates Florina Vistal, Cherry Ramirez and Vinay Piparsania, climbed up the grand spiral staircase of the INQUIRER main offices.

The man looked like he meant business, all right. And his career background gave us a mint that he walked the straight and very narrow path. He exuded the air of authority only long years in military service and actual combat could give. And his imposing 6'1" presence cannot be ignored—not in the battlefield, not in a board meeting, and certainly not in a press conference.

"Are you a CIA agent?" this writer blithely asked this Vermont native in a phone interview once. His voice expressionless, Baker denied he was one

So much for trying to break the ice

This Sept. 12 evening, however, as Baker faced a number of INQUIRER Business and Motoring reporters, he was in a memer mood, catching and batting away alternately insightful and inane questions like his favorite team the Boston Red Sox

Baker was marking his 30th year in Ford Motor Co. this month. He recailed that prior to a career shift to Ford, in 1972, his military ship assigned to the US Seventh Fleet docked twice in what was once the Subic Nava. Base.

Exposé

But now, he noted that Subic was a hotbed of smuggling activities and he praised Inquiera reporters for its expose on vehicle smuggling. He also said, with a smile, that perhaps "the next Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein" could come from this newspaper (Woodward and Bernstein were the reporters from Washington Post that exposed the Watergate Scandal that eventually led to US President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974.)

Baker would also later learn that six years ago, INQUIRER Motoring had already been running a series of reports on the alleged unsafe conversion practices of the

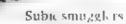
Ford Group Philippines
president Rick Baker
visits the INQUIRER
'barracks' to
get the feel
of the 'hot
guns.' Boy,
were we
smokin'

SPEAK loud but drive a small car. The Verve concept espouses the beauty and efficiency of being small. But would big Baker fit in one?



FORD Chair Henry Co is the long range 'sniper' while Baker is the master in hand-to-hand combat. The perfect team, Baker declares.

EXPLORER



Baker reiterated that converting original right hand crive velocies to of a und drive which thereally be unsafe. "It simpossible to velocity and the expect to have the same characteristics as a originally had."

Baker revealed that this was why some markets "can't get certain vehicles. They're never engineered to be right-hand drive or left-hand drive"

"And there's a reason for that," he added "It's not because automakers want to get rich by holding things back but because the laws of science kind of make the obvious conclusion."

Everyday car, dream car

Baker, whose three sons, parents and sibhigs all drive Ford vehicles, chose an Expedition as his everyday car. He cited the SUV's safety and comfort, and enough space to allow him to work as he travels. His dream car, however, is a Jaguar XKE

"When I was about 15, I lived down a street from a doctor and he had a yellow convertible XKE sports car, and he used to wash it every Saturday afternoon in his driveway. I always just kind of stop and talk to him. And after a while, I ended up washing the car. I have never forgotten how cool that was. So, the Jaguar has always been my dream car because of that," Baker narrated

But back to reality, how would Filipinos feel the spirit of "Fordism" here and now in the Ford brand itself, in the light of cut throat competition among supposedly low-THE TOUGH/ B2-2

volvo, tor

Volvo Cars focuses on fuel efficeincy

THE ENVIRONment is in sharp focus on the Volvo Cars booth at Frankfurt Motor Show

The company presents a number of technical solutions designed to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide, including the Volvo ReCharge Concept—a C30 with a unique plugin hybrid system

"We are working toward a much-energy society where several energy-efficient solutions inter act to deal with the complex chimate issues," said Volvo Cars president and CEO Fredrik Arp.

"The carbon diox ide issue has of course top priority. In order to deal effectively with the CO₂ challenge, we must work with several different technological solutions that cover our entire model range," Arp explained.

Energy efficiency

The terms "alternative fuels" and "fuel consumption" are frequently used in the car industry. However, when discussing the future, Volvo Cars prefers to go via "multi-fuel" to the far broader terms "multi-energy" and "energy efficiency."

"In order to more accurately judge the environmental effect of a new driveline, it is necessary to examine the entire chain from raw material

VOLVO ORTIGAS

88 ADB AVENUE ORTIGAS CENTER PASIG CITY VOLVO MAKATE

2272 CHINO ROCES AVENUE (FOR PASONG TAMO EXT.), MAKATI CITY

017-1884, 913-6962 and 757-1619



MANDAUE CHY 10 (032) 346-3322

By Emman Cena



A SECOND-GENERATION RALLY DRIVER and son of five-time British Rally Champion Jimmy McRae, Colin McRae began his driving career in 1986 in the local Scottish Rally Championships series. Only a year later, he got his mitial World Rally Championship (WRC) exposure and over a career spanning 20 years secured two of his own British Rally Championships and the WRC driver's crown in 1995

Colin McRae is Britain's first-ever World Andre Palma



Raily Champson. His record of 25 WRC victories is the fourth most successful at the highest level of rallying-one short of "El Marador" Carlos Sainz and one more than fierce rival Tommi Makinen

Considered as one of the greatest rally drivers of his generation, Colin McRae was awarded an MBE (member of the Order of the British Empire) in 1996 by Queen Elizabeth II for his achievement in the sport. He died tragically on Saturday.

TRANSPORT TRIVIA

On traffic lights

GONE WERE THE DAYS WHEN POLICE officers had to be stationed on every busy corner of the metropolis to regulate traffic flow. More than they accentuate our dark streets, traffic lights assign the rightof-way and movement of traffic gridlock. But did you know where in the world traffic lights first installed and whose mind was behind those tri-colored flickering lights?

It was said that the world's first traffic light was born even before the automobile was in use. In 1868 at an intersection in London, a revolving lantern with red and green signals was installed A year later, this traffic light exploded, injuring the policeman believed to be operating it.

In 1920, with the surge of automobiles cramping the streets, William L. Potts, a police officer from Detroit, Michigan, installed yet another set of street lights at the corner of the Woodward and Michigan Avenues in Detroit. Potts used red, amber and green rail- POTTS road lights and about

\$37 US worth of wire and electrical contory/inventions/trafficlight.htm



trols to make the world's first 4-way three color traffic light.

> Years later, many info..owed through Garrett Morgan of Cleveland, Olno designed an electric automatic traffic light which resembles the semaphore signals we have these days. Morgan's patent soon was purchased by General Electric Corp. eventually making its name on traffic light manufacture

Reference: www.ideafinder.com/his-

The 'tough' visits the 'fearless' Frompage 182-1

("Fordism" was a word coined in 1914 which meant Ford founder Henry Ford's combination of highly efficient factories, highly-paid skilled workers and low prices that revolutionized manufacturing.)

were important to (Henry) Ford back then were still important today.

"We want to be able to make cars that people can afford and people want to own. That's really our goal. then we will probably end up not winming," he said

As opposed to a numbers race in the

er-priced brand cars in the country? automotive manufacturing market Sizewars nearly a century ago when a Ford Model Tunit came out of the assembly line every three hours, Baker said today's automotive wars revolved around "di-

The Philippine market, he re-Baker replied that the things that vealed, is no different. He cited the Focus turbo diesel as a major participant in the "C" segment. He added that Ford has been producing turbo diesel common-rail direct-injection or TDC1-powered vehicles (its an-And if we do that well and better than swer to the hugely popular CRDicompetition then we will win and if we powered diesel vehicles) for several don't do it better than competition years, mostly for the more discerning European market that demanded more fuel-efficient performance

There's the choice between gasoline and diesel, and now there's that tug of war between upsizing and going small-going for the burly SUVs or the subcompact cars. What would be Baker's take on that?

Baker said, "Everybody tends to have their own agenda and make their cases based on selective facts but at the end of the day, people are going to decide what they want to buy. "And right now for the foreseeable future, people are going to want smaller, fuel-efficient cars and we're responding as everybody else. That's the way I see it."

He stressed that from Ford's corporate point of view, "Whether it's a big car or small car, it's got to be safe." And it has to be fuel-efficient as well.

ECOnetic badge

Today's automotive technology is making it possible for consumers to get the best of both worlds: fuel efficiency and safety. Baker cited, in particular, the recent 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show where Ford of Europe offered ultralow CO2 emission, fuel-efficient alternatives for selected car lines with the launch of the new range of Ford ECOnetic models.

Such cars use a combination of the latest common-rail diesel powertrains together with other carefully selected features engineered to reduce CO2 sioned

emissions to the absolute minimum." "I think the real potential is in com---ing for the green light.

pact cars, and while we don't offer one of those today, we will soon. We will be competing there just like everybody

To show that he's dead serious here, he pointed to Ford's Verve concept at the 2007 Frankfurt Motor Show, which he said would be the direction Ford small cars are taking. The Verve concept, a new esthetic inspired by mobile phones, reflects Ford's kinetic design philosophy of being "chic and mod-

"Someday in the future, you would probably have something like that running around the Philippines," he envi-

Sounds like a battle plan just wait-

Motorists assured of better service with LTO Web portal, SMS facility



With today's crowded arena, creating brands that resonate genome consumer needs and stand out amongst competition become a challenge. How do you systematically make strategic moves that render competition inelevant?

The business arena is fair game to everyone. But some win and some do not. What makes winners win?

PROGRAMME CONCEPT

"Stand Out" is the fusion of two strategic topics that features the rare tandem between the country's sole official lecturer on Blue Ocean Strategy, Jossah Go, and sought-after molivational speaker and best-selling author Francis Kong

KEY BENEFITS

The participant will gain:

-understanding in using Blue Ocean Strategy tools and frameworks as the blueprint behind the formulation of a brand's short-term strategies and future direction

-better awareness of perceiving oneself as a brand and employing strategies to accelerate career advancement but more importantly to creatively work with those who really malter

Your company will gain:

-an appreciation of the revolutionary mindset that competition can indeed be made irrelevant with the creation of uncontested market space through the tools and frameworks embedded in Blue Ocean

-greater individual contribution brought about by tools, behavior and attitude that create results, based on principles of intrapreneurship rooted on building lives as

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(www.markprof.org)

THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE recently introduced a website portal and Short Messaging Pacility (SMS) that offers the motoring public relevant information such as how and where to get a driver's license, motor vehicle registration details or how much it will cost Juan dela Cruz to get

a student permit among other services.

Transportation and Communications Assistant Secretary and LTO Chief Reynaldo Berroya said that initially the portal will offer online and real-time LTO transactions such as driver's license certification, motor vehicle certification, Law Enforcement & Traffic Adjudication (Letas) online apprehension settlement and LTO records verification.

Certification, settlement

The DL/MV Certification service will enable the motoring public, particularly the overseas Filipmo workers (OFWs), to apply for a driver's license and/or motor vehicle certification over the Web using various payment methods. OFWs don't have to come home to the Philippines just to apply for this document

The Letas Online Settlement Service, on the other hand, provides an alternative way to sertie uncontested apprehensions. It eliminates the hassles of queuing for hours just to pay at an LTO office. After settling the violation online, one just has to pick up the license or plate from the LTO office.

Record retrieval

As a value added service, the LTO Web Facility's Records Verification service allows members to retrieve records from the LTO-IT system database online and real time. It will enable members to conveniently verify authenticity of information pertaining to motor vehicles using plate number and/or engine and chassis number as search criteria and driver's license records with license number, name and/or birth date as criteria. Banks and other financing institutions are just some of the customers for which this service is designed.

The LTO Info-Text facility, on the other hand, provides the motoring public an av-enue to access information regarding LTO procedures and document requirements through SMS. Simple and easy to understand text parameters shall be relayed to the public to make their LTO texting experience an easy and hassle-free one

Another valuable feature the LTO Info-Text boasts is motor vehicle verification. The LTO text service allows you to check with the LTO database whether a vehicle is legit or not. With a simple text message, you can immediately find out if a car is truly registered with the LTO or if the vehicle has any pending apprehensions or alarms.

For the LTO Web portal, simply log on to www.lto.net.ph or www.xpresslane.com.ph. Text LTO (space) help to 2600 for text service.

Volvo Cars focuses. . . From page B2-1

and use in the car. For instance, if a lot of electricity produced by fossil fuels is needed to create a renewable fuel, this will not be CO2efficient from a holistic perspective even if the emissions from the car's tailpipe are minimal," Fredrik Arp pointed out.

Holistic approach

The holistic view that Volvo Cars applies to driveline technology is based on three

· To innovate. Continuous efficiency improvements to today's gasoline- and dieselpowered cars are taking place in parallel with intensive work on new hybrid technol-

• To cooperate. Coordination with customers, politicians, organizations and other companies is a precondition for sustainable transport. Volvo Cars is determined to influence impatives and decisions that are taken outside the car industry.

· To deliver. Customers in a growing number of European markets will soon have access to one of the automotive world's broadest Flexifuel ranges: five models, three different bioethanol engines.

"At present, bioethanol is the most attractive afternative when you consider availability, environmental effectiveness and cost-efficiency. However, what is regarded as most

extraction and fuel production to distribution favorable today may be refined or converted to an even more sustainable solution tomorrow. As an innovative knowledge-based company, we are an active and constructive partner in the global and regional forums that evaluate emerging alternatives for the future. It is our responsibility to deliver the car technology that makes transitions possible," Arp said.

Systematization

Volvo Cars uses a three-phase system for the development of more efficient drivelines: innovation, test and delivery.

Hybrid solutions such as the Volvo ReCharge Concept being unveiled in Frankfurt are one example of the technologies that are still at the innovation stage.

Thanks to constructive cooperation between the car industry and several EU member states, E85-powered Flexifuel cars have definitely moved from the testing stage to delivery. Volvo Cars will soon have Flexifuel models

available on most European markets. This systematic approach is being applied to all enhanced or alternative drivelines within the Volvo Cars development program. The aim is to stimulate and promote the viability of technological solutions that are sustainable for the environment and for

society in general—as well as being cost-ef-

MOTORING

The low-cost global challenge

GUESS WHO SAID THIS? "TT IS EASY to make a cheap vehicle. To make a cheap vehicle that is robust and reliable and to turn a profit, that's the future of the auto industry."

Renault-Nissan CEO Carlos Ghosn said that last Sept. I in Tangiers where he signed an agreement with the Moroccan Prime Minister to build in that North African port city a \$1.36 billion automotive plant designed to feed low-cost cars and trucks to the showrooms of Europe, Asia and North America Like other manufacturers in the global mass-market car business, Mr. Ghosn is moving fast into the nofrills segment to counter competition from China and India, which are mimicking the way Japan and South Korea built up strong auto industries by focusing first on low-cost cars and then progressing to their export.

24416

Although many Chinese and Indian vehicles don't meet Western safety and emission standards, they challenge ef forts by established US, European, Japanese and Korean carmakers to win new customers in the fast-growing markets of BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China), South Africa, Eastern Europe and other Asian countries where safety, comfort and horsepower don't matter as much as in the West. The auto research firm Global Insight predicts that by 2012, Chinese sales of light vehicles-cars, trucks and vans that weigh less than six tons-will soar by 50 6 percent to 12 million

The auto titans are scrambling to expand in China, where the overall vehicle market grew 25 percent to 7 23 million units in 2006 while sales in North America, Europe and Japan dragged due to high fuel prices, Foreign carmakers sell both mass-market and luxury cars to meet the demand of both budget-conscious middle-class drivers and China's newly rich upper

ON THE ROAD Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

class. If China maintains this pace, it is expected to surpass the United States as the world's biggest car market by

After China, India is the second hottest market with 1 1 billion people poised to buy minivans, small trucks and pint-sized cars this year. India has a 216 million middle-class population eager to snap up cars. In the year ending March 31, passenger car sales in India climbed 21 percent to 1.38 million and may top 2 million vehicles by 2010 About two-thirds of vehicle sales in India are low-budget subcompacts.

Mature

By taking advantage of inexpensive home-market labor and technology imported from Western partners and suppliers, Chinese and Indian car manufacturers stand to rapidly improve their products and could soon begin to attack mature markets. Just last week, BMW filed a lawsuit in Munich to prohibit the sale in Germany of the Shuanghuan CEO, a brazen Chinese imitation of the BMW X5. Shuanghuan defiantly displayed the CEO at the Frankfurt Motor Show, stealing the spotlight from world famous German brands

Copying is the price of doing business in China as alliances between Chinese and Western automakers expand. General Motors and Honda (which produces the Fit/Jazz in China for export to Europe) have sued Chinese carmakers for copying their designs but got little relief from Chinese courts. This did not deter GM from announcing that it will double

production capacity with its joint-venture partner Shanghar Automotive Industries Corp. by 2010 while slashing 1,400 jobs in Belgium. GM will also ramp up production by 50 percent at Shanghai-GM-Walung, a separate venture that produces mini-vehicles such as subcompact vans, more units of which were sold in China last year than GM's Saturn or Buick vehicles in the United

GM CEO Rick Wagoner, in New Delhi last April to launch GM's first small car in India, said that India could become a production hub for GM to export cars worldwide. GM is banking on growth in China and India to offset the impact of declining sales in the mature markets of the West while at the same time to help fend off Toyota's challenge to GM's six-decade reign as the world's No. 1 carmaker.

But Toyota isn't sitting still either. "New markets outside Japan, the United States and Europe are the key to future success," said Katsuaki Watanabe, the CEO of Japan's largest carmaker as Toyota announced earlier this month an annual sales target of 10.4 million vehicles worldwide by 2009. Toyota plans to reach its target not only by expanding market share in the United States but also by boosting sales by as much as 50 percent in the BRIC coun-

Fastest growing

Although GM entered China years earlier and enjoys a market share of about 11 percent there, Toyota is now one of the fastest growing brands and expects sales to reach 430,000 vehicles this year. By 2010, Toyota forecasts sales of more than one million vehicles in China, grabbing 10 percent of the Chinese market. In India, Toyota aims to increase sales to 200,000 vehicles by 2010 and also develop a new low-cost stretch their budgets and get creative

car to compete with Nissan's projected \$2,500 car for the Indian market.

Last July, Chrysler and China's Chery Automobile Co. signed a dea. whereby Chery will build small, inexpensive cars under the Dodge brand for export initially to Latin America and Eastern Europe. Chrysler's decision to outsource the manufacturing of some small car models reflects a new trend for global automakers who are struggling to trim costs and cope with mounting competition. Being able to produce low-cost small cars is essential for the big companies' success as they increasingly turn to the developing world for growth.

Torn

At the same time, they have to contimue serving their established customers in the West. Torn between producing sporty, technically sophisticated models for the mature markets of the West and small, no-frills budget cars for the fast-growing emerging markets, the major carmakers have to

as investments in new factories can

Meanwhile, the progress of India's Tata Motors in developing the world's cheapest car is being watched by Toyota, Nissan, GM and Ford, which are developing or have launched cheap cars in the BRIC markets. Challenging Tata, Renault-Nissan is working on a cheaper (around \$2,500) variant of the Logan, a low-cost (\$6,000) small car launched in Romania in September 2004 that to everyone's surprise became a marketing success. Renault-Nissan has a new joint venture with Mahindra & Mahindra, India's largest maker of jeeps and tractors, for a \$908 million factory that will produce mostly budget-compact vehicles ..ke the Lo-

As Mr Ghosp said ast week in Frankfurt, "The markets are growing in the emerging countries. If you don't go there, you can forget about having any sustainable hope for the future

(With reports from WSJ, IHT, Bloomberg News and the Straits



IPC president Kerji Takeda (right) and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. country chair Ed Chua leads the ceremonial flag-off at the Shell station in Nagtahan, Manila.

Enjoying RP sights using.

From page 82-4

world driving conditions," Takeda explained Aside from Phipinas Shell Petroleum

Corp., which provided the fuel, IPC also partnered with Star Communications Holdings Corp., Oceanic Shipping Corp. and Winterpine Marketing Corp.

This year's version covered six regions, four islands and two ro-ro (roll on roll off) trips Each lap winner won a special prize.

"But more importantly, the Isuzu Challenge 2007 incorporated fun activities along the way. On each stopover we held side challenges that allowed the teams to win more special prizes, although the resalts did not affect the teams' overall mileage figures," Takeda added.

First lap

The event kicked off at Shell station in Nagtahan, Manila for the first lap that brought the participants to Camarines Surand finally to Shell station in Pampang, Sorsogon (for a total of 640 km)

For the second lap the participants started at San Juanico Bridge and the MacArthur Shrine and ended at the Sheil station in Liloan, Leyte-increasing the trip distance to 1,130 km.

For the third and last lap, the teams visited Isuzu Cagayan de Oro and Del Monte

Golf Club before concluding the event at the Shell station on MacArthur Highway in Davao City

Winners

In the end it was the pair of Isuzu Challenge veterans Ron delos Reyes ("Auto Review" motoring TV show producer and host) and Lester Dizon (Motorcycle magazine editor) who topped the Crosswind category by achieving a 22.581 km per liter efficiency.

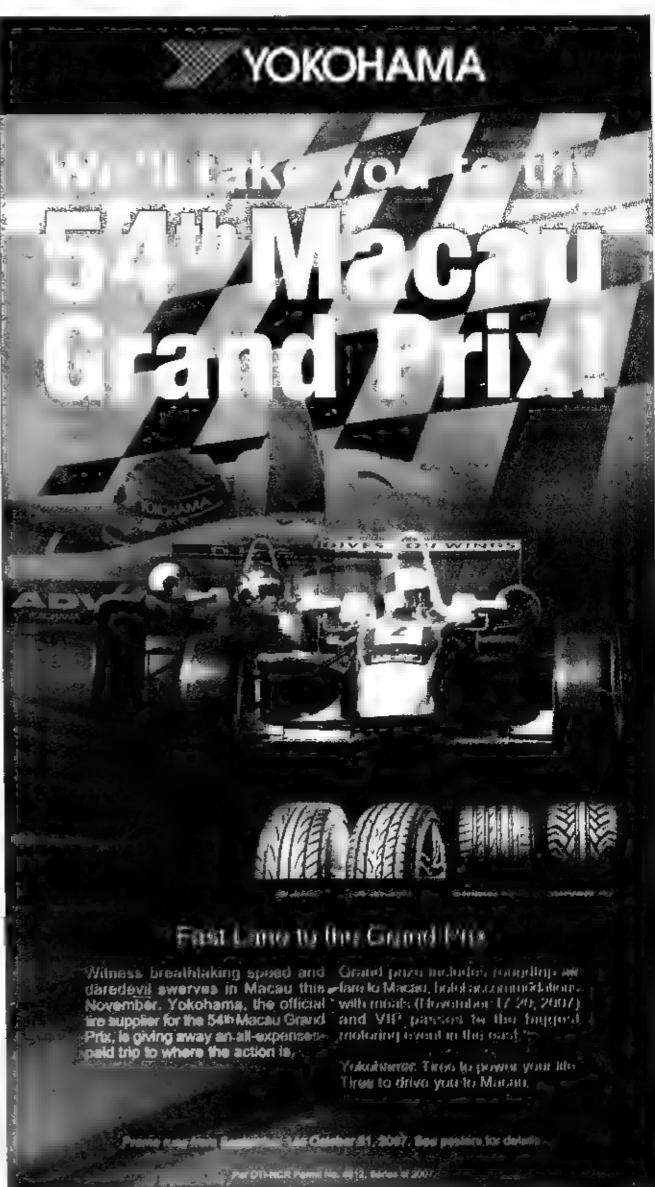
Businessmen Dennis Belda and Renato Palad Jr. topped the D-Max category with 24.172 km per liter while the pair of gardening enthusiast Dave Aquino and businessman Oscar Nuke, both former winners in the previous runs of the Isuzu Challenge, won the Alterra category with a similar 24.717 km per liter average.

For their achievements, the winning teams each received P100,000 in cash, a trophy and other giveaways. The first and second runners-up were also awarded PS0,000 and P25,000, plus trophies and giveaways.

How did they do it? Dizon and Reyes said they were just conscious about their driving habits like knowing exactly when to shift to a higher gear without placing to much stress on their engine as well as driving at a steady speed, anticipating the stops (so may be with a said a



2007 ISUZU Challenge Roadtrip winners (from left) Dizon and De los Reyes for the Crosswind category; Palad and Belda for the D-Max category; and Aquino and Nuite for the Alterra category



Enjoying RP sights US111g few liters of diesel

By Charles E. Buban

OBE FUEL EFFICIENT does not mean one has to drive too slow or endure scorching cabin temperatures.

In fact, the most fuel-efficient speed is quite fast already, between 75 and 90 kilometers per hour (kph) and there are other fuel-saving techniques-aside from turning the air-con off-that could be used while not taking away the pleasure in driving

"Driving should be fun even if you want to save on fuel. With this year's edition of the Isuzu Challenge, we were again able to show

that achieving fuel economy need not be boring," said Isuzu Philippines Corp. president Keiji Takeda.

The Isuzu Challenge, which began in 2002, has been visiting different places around the country, letting its participants enjoy the Philippine sights while trying to achieve consuming the least amount of fuel.

Road trip style

This time, IPC decided to make a road-trip style (last year was a champions edition) of activity that covered 1,764 kilometers starting from Larzon all the way to Mindanao using the diesel maker's current models-Alterra 4x2, D-Max 4x2 and Crosswind Sportivo (all

were manual).

This year, we challenged, nine participating teams-three for each model-ifthey can go the distance. They completed three laps of strategic driving from Aug. 21 to 26," Takeda

All participants were either Isuzu customers or members of the motoring media.

Stock vehicles

"Also, IPC provided all the stock vehicles used in the contest to guarantee parity not to mention that the teams were made to drive with the air-conditioner on to simulate real-

ENJOYING/ B2-3



WHILLIAM ATTEMPTING to achieve the least amount of diesel fuel consumed, the participants crossed seas enjoying the sights at the same time.

HYUNDAI-SETTING THE QUALITY BENCHMARK

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Callt., in 2000, when Hyundal announced major reforms aimed at significantly boosting the quality of its vehicles, the company's goal was to become one of the world's highest quality automakers. To achieve this, a worldwide quality initiative was launched, locusing on three key areas of quality leadership: Intelligent ergonomic engineering, obsessive customer locus and accaptance of the need for continuous change. It is the embodiment of this quality initiative that has lucted Hyundal's significant improvements in vehicle qualily over the past several years, as well as its fromendous sales growth worktwide

Hyundal's strategic focus on quality, backed by more than 900 Hyundal quality-dedicated engineers, is now integrated throughout all phases of vehicle development - research, design, engineering, production, distribution, customer delivery and beyond. This quality leadership initiative is spearheaded by Hyundai Motor Company's Quality Department in Korea, with coordination and continual cross-functional interaction with its many other established quality teams throughout the world.

Quality and the North American Market

For vehicles destined for the North American market, implementation of Hyundat's quality britistive has meant storificant input from and involvement by dedicated quality experts at Hyundar Motor America (HMA), Hyundel North American Quality Center (NAQC) is Chino, California; Hyundia Automotive Technical Center (HATCI) in Ann Arbor Michigan; and Hyundal Motor Manufacturing of America (HMMA) in Montgomery, Alabama, Working together, these entities have established a systern of quality procedures to assure all Hyundel vehicles meet the highest standards that American consumers have come to expect - and demand when purchasing a new vehicle.

During the design phase, HMA, HATCL, NAOC and HMMA meet regularly with Hyundal's Quality and Research and Development Departments in Korea to review what is termed The voice of the consumer" - extensive research, market analysis and feedback data from vehicle owners and prospective buyers. These cross-functional information sharing and intensive problem solving sessions continue

throughout the engineering, development and production stages, so potential problems or situations that might impact vehicle quality can be immediately identified and addressed. Sometimes these sessions uncover potential problems that require unexpected changes or part modifications. These "onthe liy" changes, though not purposely planned at the outset of the design and engineering phase, are now embraced as a necessary step of a much more dynamic and flexible development process that expacts - and immediately addresses - necessary changes to assure quality is never compromised.

Once early Hyundai prolotype vehicles are produced, they are rigorously lasted and evaluated for quality in a number of areas, including exterior and Interior & and linish; performance under varying conditions, joint waiting; paint quality; noise, vibretion and harshness, electrical connections, among other items. Hyundai's testing lacilities in Namyang, for example, include three wind testing tunnels, allowing simulation of wind speeds of 125 mph and recreation of rain, siest and snow, to lest inclement weather effects on vehicles. Quality test teams at HMA, HATCI and NAOC pull extensive miles on vehicles, run additional avaluations on Hyundai's test track in Fontana, California, and conduct hot end cold weather tests in the Mojave Desert and International Falls Minnesota, locations known for their extreme temperatures. Test results and accompariying data are then relayed to Hyundai Motor Company's Quality Department, so that any needed vehide medifications and changes can be immediate

Testing doesn't end, however, with prototype vehides. Once production begins, the cross-functional, data-driven feedback loop and interaction confinuse, as quality teams review and incorporate addi-Bonzi changes and other improvements based on leedback from U.S.-based marketing focus groups, media preview lests, early consumer reactions and

Quality assurance is also incorporated throughout the vehicle delivery process. For vehicles produced in Korea, quality audits are initiated on the assembly line and continued at the Post in Ulsen and through the ports of entry into the U.S. In Alabama, all vehicles of the assembly line receive an immedials inspection by HMMA's Quality Assurance Depertment as well as a lest track evaluation. Another quality inspection is also conducted by Hyundal's Alabama shipping processors. Once vehicles are in transit to dealerships via truck or rail, dealers have been trained to initiate another 51-point inspection. on vehicles received, assuming that no quality issues have occurred during vehicle transit. After customers purchase a Hyundai vehicle, Hyundai Motor

America representatives contact them within severat days to inquire about their dealership experience. as well as to discuss any problems or quality issues they may have with their vehicle. Again, this information is looped back to all Hyundai entities involved in the quality assurance process for immediate review and eveluation.

> Hyunda: Quality - Backed by America's Best Warranty

Given this agorous and complete quality program means that Hyundai can confidently back tha quality and craftsmanship of every vehicle in its lineup the Hyundai Advantage, America's Best Warranby Provided on every new vehicle since the 1999 model year and currently covering more than 2.75. mation vehicles nationwide. The Hyundai Advantage - an industry first when introduced - is now further complemented by another industry list. The new Hyundai Certified Pre-Owned Limited Warranty, Introduced in May 2007 the pre-owned program boasts a 10-year/100,000 mile powertrain warranty on used vehicles dating back live model years that have less than 60,000 mile

Hyundal Motor America

Hyundal Motor America, headquartered in Fountain Valley, Calil. is a subsidiery of Hyundal Motor Company of Korea, Hyundar cers and sport ubitive vehicles are distributed throughout the United States by Hyundai Motor America and are sold and serviced by more than 750 Hyundai dealerships nationwide.



HYUNDAI AUTHORIZED DEALERS

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- Mysachs Mobung 800-1771, 802-3574, 802-3863
 Hyundel Bohnsmank 382-0001 Hyunda Communication 255 007
 Hyunda Communication 251-2201 to 10, 867 8681 to 12.
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- Hyunda E. Radinguez St. 418-4155, 418-3833. 418-5787 722-0002 Hywadni Mahal Chy | \$16-0606, 050 7051 to \$6

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- Hyenda Cape (843) 767 6345, (945) 272-3868, (945) 769-3869 Hyenda Cabanatana (944-463 7274, Hannata Research (948-968)
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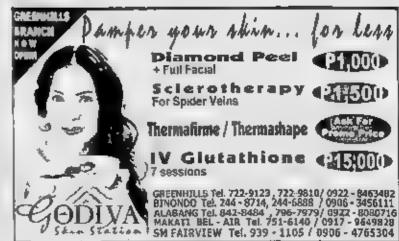
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Genuine HYUNDRI Parts



EXCLUSIVE DISTRIBUTOR OF HYUNDAY Hyundai Asia Resources, Inc. ENTERING GENERAL GO CONTROL STANDARD OF THE ST

THE HERENGE PROPERTY OF THE PR



in the fun!

The formula for an unforgettable trip?
One colorful city, a group of lomographers, over 20 toy cameras and one undeniably great sale

By Pam Pastor

HEY WERENT KIDDING when they called it The Great Samsung Sale.

Inspired by shopping festivals in other countries, Samsung decided to hold the first ever Great Samsung Sale, and their chosen venue for the mobile madness was Cagayan de Oro

"We are going down the market line. We believe in localization, in reaching out to ouf "market," said Angie Limbaco, Samsung's brand and PR group head

And what a way to reach out. With the help of Roger Chiu, Samsung's dealer in Cagayan de Oro, the company managed to turn CDO into Samsung city from July 20 to September, coinciding with CDO's fiesta.

Branding power

Right from the start, on our way to the hotel from the airport, we were over-whelmed at Samsung's display of branding power. The Great Samsung Sale was being announced via countless billboards and posters pasted on jeepneys, tricyles, taxis, mobile trucks and what have you.

The sale reminders continued during . lunch—with the signs on the table and the pins on the waiters' shirts.

After lunch, we took what we now think of as The Great Samsung Sale walk—from Robinsons to Lunketkai Mall. Armed with some 20 toy cameras, lomographers Ronald Cruz, Jay Lara, Jill Lejano, Coco Pabio, Rollie Valenzuela and Ruby de Vera captured the scene, from stores bustling with activity and games being held in the middle of malls to the Ultra Mobile Nation setup in Robinsons, and finally to Samsung's concept shop, which was bursting with flyers and promo materials in different languages.

Apart from the huge discounts, there were many elements to The Great Samsung Sale, giving people more reasons to shell out their money for a dose of technology. Some purchases came with freebies and bonuses such as restaurant discounts, concert tickets and even Swiss knives.

There were Buy One Take One promos for mobile phones. Other promos invited users to try mobile phones for two days, allowing them to return the units if they find them unsatisfactory. Consumers were also given the chance to win Samsung TVs.

Surreal scene

We continued to feel Samsung's presence that evening, when we went to Divisoria Café to check out the bands. Samsung's support for the city's festivities was evident, what with the giant mobile phones making the scene even more surreal.

The next day, we met Noel Dajao, Samsung's branch manager for Cagayan de Oro at the Miss Kagay-an Tourism 2007 pageant, which Samsung also sponsored. Natasha

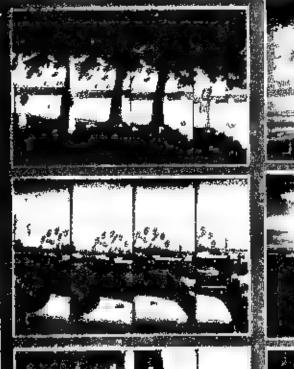
Mills was crowned Miss Samsung that night.
Although we had been invited to Cagayan de Oro for The Great Samsung Sale, we were allowed to explore the city, too, to take in the sights and to taste local flavors, to push ourselves, to make memories that would last a very long time.

brand seemed so enamored with Cagayan de Oro. The sale was great and the city was even

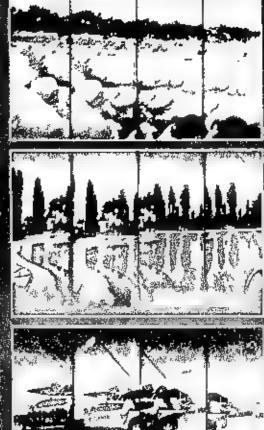
Turn the page and start your own Cagayan de Oro adventure.











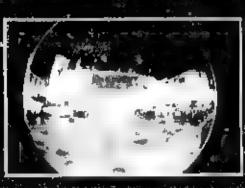


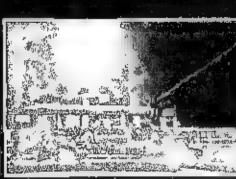
A taste of awesome



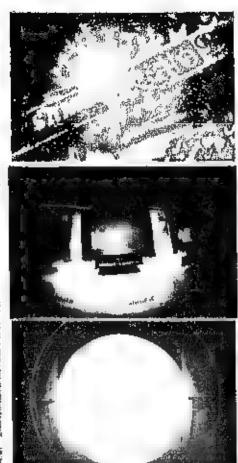


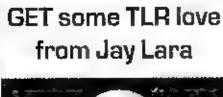




















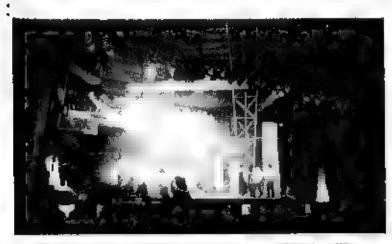








Beauty pageant, CDO-style



ALL eyes on the finalists; (below) Miss Samsung Natasha Mills



THEY TAKE BEAUTY PAGEANTS SERIOUSLY

No surprise there, as the Miss Kagay-an Tourism beauty pageant is one of the high lights of the Kagay-an Fiesta.

The people watching the pageant at the Atrium of Limketkai were so engrossed with what was happening onstage that when we accidentally blocked their view as we made our way to the front in an attempt to get better photos, people hissed angrily at us to sit down

Each girl had her own cheering squad in the audience-different sections that cheered and hooted as their numbers were called

Many awards were handed out, including the Miss Samsung Award which was given to Natasha Milis. At the end of the night, Diana Bagonoc was crowned M.ss Kagay-an Tourism 2007 Diana will now serve as the city's Ambassador of Goodwill,

The question-and-answer portion was enterraining. The girls were asked to share how they would promote Cagayan de Oro as a tourist destination. Some came up with unique answers like increasing Cagayan's gross domestic product (huh?) and focusing

on local caves' stalactites and stalagmites. Sure, some of them stammered and stuttered, but they were all proud of their city-its places for white water rafting, the warmth of the locals and its reputation as a place for

building friendships.

The girls agreed Cagayan de Oro was a place for making memories. We couldn't agree



BIG dose of Samsung at Divisoria Cafe



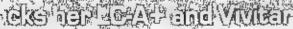








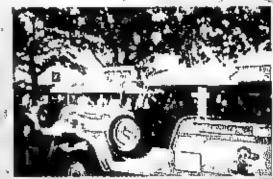














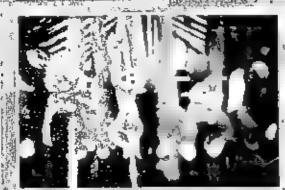




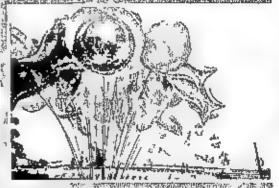




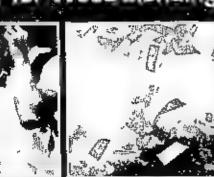




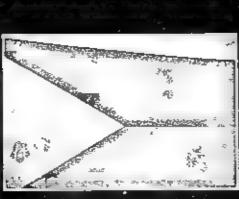




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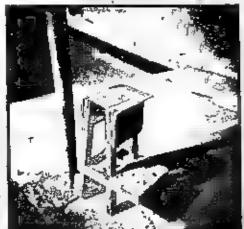












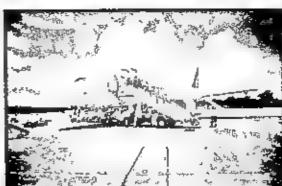


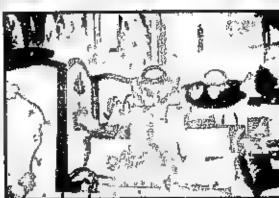




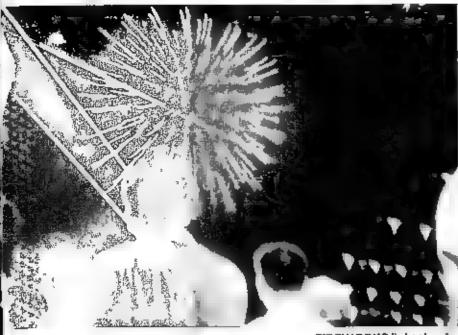








A different Divisoria



FIREWORKS light the sky. One we know in Manila.

BUILT IN 1901, CAGAYAN DE I Oro's Plaza Divisoria is a park intended to honor heroes like Andres

Bontfacto and Dr. José Rizal

On Friday and Saturday nights, people enjoy live music, beer and barbecue at the Night Café set up in the area. There's a night market, too, where people can score bargains after sunset.

The place was a hive of activity the night we visited because of the town fiesta. There were huge stages that gave the local bands the chance to be heard, plus body paint-covered men, lovers sitting on plant boxes, and people eating, drinking and dancing.

and dancing.

Fireworks lit the night sky, a beautiful way to end an evening in a Divisoria that's a far cry from the







III IEJANO



LIFESTYLE





THIS Tiger no longer flies.

JOE'S DINER IN Limketkai Center looks and feels like an authentic American diner, complete with a bar equipped with leather stools, cozy booths and vintage paraphernalia.



AMERICAN diner, CDO-style RUBY DEVERA

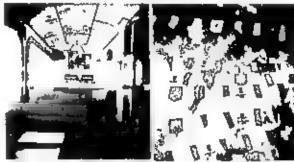
NLL LEJANO

But not all diners have an old airplane sticking out of its façade like P

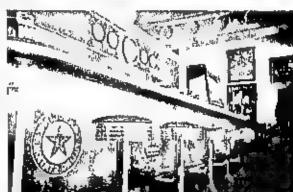
There was even a time when diners could actually go inside and explore the plane's interiors. While you can no longer do that nowadays, there are other things you can do at P. Joe's enjoy the food, hang out with friends and take a ton of photos.

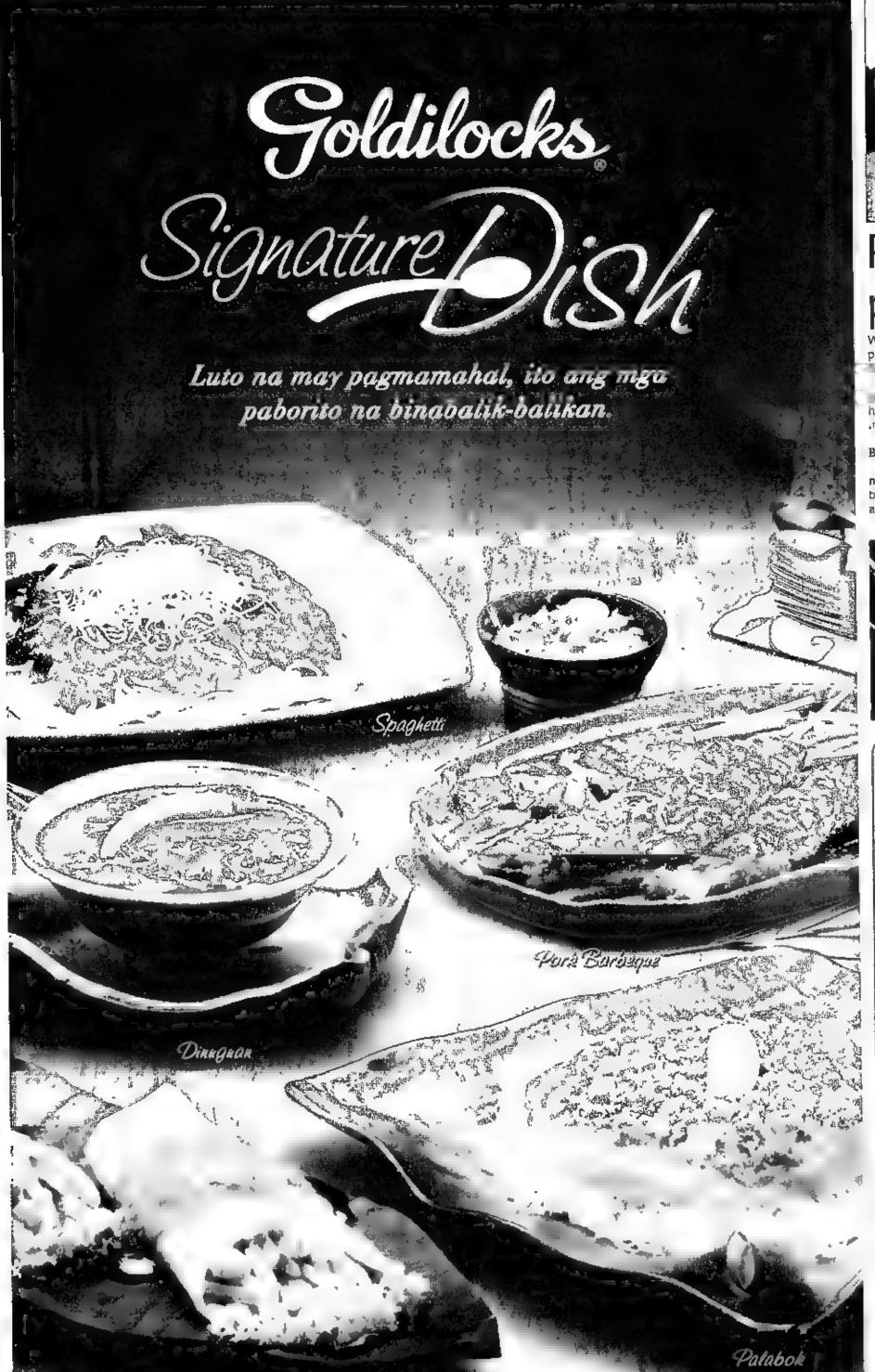
Try the baby-back ribs, juicy burgers, lengua, chicken fingers, mozzare.la sticks and shakes. The food is good-good enough to help you forget your desire to find out what's inside that old airplane.

Visit P Joe's Diner at Rosano Strip Limketkai Genter Cagayan de Oro. Call 088-8591210



GOOD times at P. Joe's





Gresh Lumpin



Pineapple paradise

WE TOOK A SIDE TRIP TO PINEAPPLE paradise-the Del Monte Plantation in

After an almost hour long bumpy, rainy To a rote or come or and a rote of hectares and hectares of pineapples wait ing to be picked

People aren't kidding when they cal-Buk dnon "the food basket of Mindanao "

But the Dei Monte Plantation is home to more than just pincapples and cathe. It also boasts of a world class, 18-hole golf course and a clubhouse that serves thick steaks.



Chicken overload

KAGAYANONS GET THEIR REGULAR dose of crisp chicken goodness from Sunburst, a food chain found all over Visayas and Mindanao. Even tourists are big fans. People who have visited Cagayan de Oro have extolled the virtues of eating at Sunburst in countiess travel websites

Diners are given the option of choosing their favorite chicken parts to be enjoyed with steamed rice. The Chix n Crackers is a must try. The killer combination of fried chicken skin and potato clups is so good that people bring orders back to Manda in Ziploc bags. And the best part-they stay crisp even after reheating.

The potato salad is worth a try, too. Pam Pastor Enjoyi

More Cagayan De Oro fun

A COLORFUL FIESTA, WHITE-WATER rafting, good food and even a road trip to a pineapple plantation aren't the only things you can enjoy in Cagayan de Oro

Here are some other possible adventures for tourists seeking all kinds of thrills in this

lovely place: ◆ If you're extra-gutsy, try the canopy walk, rappel or give the zip line a shot at the Macahampus Adventure Park.

Kayak at the Cagayan River.

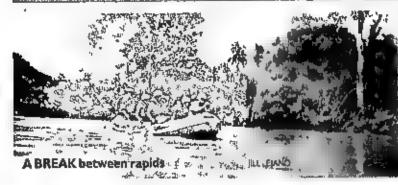
Enjoy the Catanico Falls
Go horseback riding and biking at the Mapawa Nature Park.

· Visit the St. Augustine Cathedral, the home of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.

· Check out the Macahambus Cave, an underground cave that was the site of the famous Battle of Macahambus Hil. between local mil tia and American soldiers during the war in 1900. Pam Pastor







ADVENTURE starts here.

So far...

148 LBS

to make sure you don't fall off the raft. Sure, the guide has taught you what to do in case you fall into the water-but you have no plans of giving that a shot By Pam Pastor

You keep your foot constantly locked

■ HE ADVENTURE starts way before siastically. you hit the water. When people start warning

you about the dangers, when you hear about how hard you have to paddle, when you ask yourself if you're really ready to but the rapids.

But you push those thoughts away and only start entertaining them again when you see the brightly colored jeepney pulling up in front of your hotel, with two big red rafts secured to its roof

You wonder if you should

bolt back into the hote, room and hide under the covers. But, instead, you hop aboard enthu-

Long and bumpy

The ride to the river is long and bumpy and by the time you get there, you have forgotten about being nervous. There are a lot of things to be done-sunblock to be applied, life vest to be worn, helmet to be put on-Besides, your paddle is waiting

The guides ask you to get into the water for a quick orientation. The river is ice-cold and you stifle a scream. The guide

SHOOTING/ D4



READY for more!

ROLLIE VALENZIJELA



TEAM extreme

RUBY DE VERA

Aiko Finally Reveals The

She was one of Ph.lippine cinema s tavorite young sweethearts who eventually evolved into a more accomplished, mature actress - and then some Actress Mother Public Official. \iko Melendez has assumed many roles not only in front of the cameras, but also under the watchful eyes (and sometimes mevitable scrunity) of the public.

One of the visible "changes" in Aiko was her transformation from being naturally slim to being overweight From a 28-inch waistline, she went up to a 37 something she didn't think would happen

"I ve been slim almost half of my life," Asko shares. "I was athletic, I used to swim. My frame was really shim. I was even flat-chested before! I never thought I d end up gaining weight." How did she end up gaining all the excess weight? "I think it started with my pregnancy," Aiko recalls. "Kası during my

first pregnancy, I had this notion that I could eat anything I wanted because I was eating for two.' So I spoiled myself. And I ended up gaining a drashe amount of weight! Imagine, even went up to a 37-inch waistline!"

Used to being slim, Aiko was unprepared for the emotional toll her weight gain would take on her "I felt really bad," she remembers. "When I went to the mall, people would just come up to me and say, 'Aiko, anong nangyari? Bakit ang taba mo na ngayon?' and 'Ang ganda ng mukha mo kaya lang ang taba mo,' which was pretty harsh. I really lost my self-confidence. I felt like a losyang. I couldn't even dress well. When you're fat, limited ang clotnes mo. Aside from that, Tito Wyngard, my manager, told me I was losing a lot of opportunities workwise. He said there were a lot of acting offers but they required me to lose weight first. That

made me feel even worse '

She was desperate to lose the weight fast However, this meant resorting to rash decisions in finding weight loss solutions. "I tried every diet there is * A.ko recalls. "South Beach, After 6, Atkins – you name it, I've tried it! But when I lost a bit of weight, I had a tendency to be lax. So I'd end up eating ang gaming weight again. I also tried diet pills, but I ended up getting hospitalized because of it. I felt na parang nabibingi ako, I was getting palpitations and I was becoming irritable. I also had problems with my blood circulation."

Eventually she thought she found a solution in liposuction. "I had liposuctions done in various parts of the body - my arms, my back, my legs my tummy - basically everywhere. And yeah, you do lose the weight. But if you don't watch your diet or exercise and regain the weight again, it becomes double, even triple of what you lost before. What's more, I was told you can only have at least 3 lipo's in your lifetime. 'Cause it can affect your heart, your blood and the anesthesia used can even affect your memory! Plus when I gained weight again, I noticed lumilipat yung taba in different parts of the body. I wasn't proportioned."

She became hopeful when she saw close friend Dawn Zulueta's transformation from gaining postpregnancy weight to slimming down to a body even sexier than what she had prior to the weight gain! Dawn went from 146 to an amazing 126 .bs. thanks to religiously committing to Marie France treatments.

"Seeing how Marie France worked for Dawn inspired me," Aiko says. "Achieving my ideal weight has become very important. I was about 181 lbs. when I first came to Marie France. The treatments were working and I saw how I was slowly but surely osing the pounds. However, after a few months of treatment, I had to stop because of elections where I ran for Quezon City Councilor The stress from that also made me lose a couple of pounds. Then after that, I went straight back to Marie France to continue my program. In two months, I lost 17 lbs.

As of now, I'm already 148 lbs! I'm still a work in progress, though. I'm hoping to reach my ideal weight no mga 130 to 135 .bs."

Aiko has nothing but raves for the Marie France treatments "With Marie France kası, it s safe. There are no medications, no crazy dieting, no surgery. It's purely machines working on your body You just lie down and re.ax! My top 3 favorite treatments are Endermologie Velasmooth and Physique."

Friends who have seen her transformation have encouraging reactions. "They tell me, 'Ang lakı na ng pinayat mo! Anong ginagawa mo? and I tell them I do Mane France treatments. I'm very pleased with the results. Plus I feel healthier too! So a huge thanks to Marie France for all the nice comments I've been .ed getting. But I'm not done yet! Just you wait...I'm going to get even slimmer," Aiko promises

confidently Like Arko, you can also lose the excess weight the healthy, easy, non-surgical way. Call Marie France today at 894-BODY (2639); Cebu (032) 233-7637; Pampanga (045) 961-2981 for a free consultation.



181 LBS.

9/19/07

SFBE

YACHT

Tuesday's Puzzie Solved

AGORA S FGE

A E S C U E A U M M E A S

ZHRBATHEGREEK

ZENOOFELEA SIS

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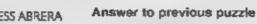
Vizquel

22 Up to the task

Hollywood

Early Peruvian 36 Think tank





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Difficulty Level it if if								

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Difficulty Level ★★★ Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

GARFIELD WAS TEASING ME ABOUT COMING TO THE BALLET



HOROSCOPE YOU BORN TODAY Although you're success-oriented and ambillous, you're also vary sensitive. (You need to be reassured by foved

ones.) Avoid boretom. Your mind is so fast and sharp that you need constant stimulation, in your later years, you will grow to be quite phelosophical and wise. The year ahead is the beginning of a new cycle for you. Open any door. New avenues are promising

Bietädate et: Trisha Yearwood, singer; Joan Lunden, TV journalist; Jeremy Irons, actor ARIES (March 21 to April LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):



paired. (This could include TAURUS (April 20 to May 201: Parants must be patient with chadren today. Romantic partners must be patient

with each other Power

struggles can arise easily

19): This is a classic day for

machinery or equipment to

break down at work. Quite

likely, you're facing situa-

tions that need to be re-



way to attain your objectives? Think about it VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Be very careful today. Either you're on the waroath or somebody else

Power struggles about

money, cash flow or possi-

bly even your earnings are

tikely today. Is this really the



is. If you get pushy about having your way, you'll only increase the opposition to you. Slow down; take it easy. ideas, Be carefull



around Walk gently

AGJARIUS (Jan. 28 to Feb. 18): Disputes about shared property are likely today. Avoid these if you can. Something you're responsible for might break. Tread carefully and act responsibly.

SAGITTAR US (Nov. 22 to

Dec. 21): Power struggles

with parents, bosses, the po-

lice and VIPs are hard to

avoid today. People, espa-

cially people in authority, are

quick to throw their weight

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to

Jan. 19): Avoid rangious and

political arguments today.

Penole are very set in their

views loday and ready to de-

fend their opinions and



PISCES (Feb. 18 to March 20). Be diplomatic with partners and close friends today. Power struggles can arupt easily. Since anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable, chill out.





I THINK ONLY A REAL MAN WOULD BE COMFORTABLE ENOUGH TO BRING ME HERE



3

ATOMO AND WEBOY

MAMA, AND TO ANG MASASABINYO SA HATOL KAY ERAPIN

LOYEKNOTS

I HAVE A SOLUTION SINCE WE CAN'T HAVE REAL SUPERPOWER WE MIGHT to OUR PROBLEM AS WELL GO THROUGH LIFE

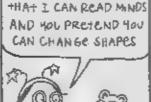
PARA-PO

SA-AKIN

HIPDI SIYA

FER BOND

PRETENDING WE HAVE ONE



I'LL CONVINCE MYSELF

HINDI PO AKO NAMINI WALANG NIMAKAWINYA ANG PERHA NG GOBYERNO!

BAKITPON

HATE EVERYONE WHO WON'T Believe us

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

HINDI PO BA ANG SABI,

PUBLEMOS E YHOLE

WALAKIE.

2.

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

AND THEN WE'LL

PERA ALE GOSTY

WALANG PERA ANG





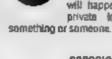
(But what a waste of tune.)

GEMINE (May 21 to June 20): Be patient with parents and family members today. It's very easy to cross swords with someone. In particular, people are keen

to tell you how to make improvements or how to do things better. (Oops.)



CANCER (Jese 21 to July 22): Conflict with siblings and daily contacts is tikely today. You think you know what's best, but others want to resist your suggestions. Because you're not a quitter, you won't let



SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Mer. 21): If you encounter sameone who seems to be coming on too heavy, just stap aside. ("A lot of men didn"),

and the lot of men died.")

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22);

Research or a little bit of dig-

ging might reveal some julcy

secrets today. Something

will happen that gives you

private information about



KIKO MACHINE

hoy TSK ANG HIRAP MAMAN BAT BA MARAKA KUMPU-KADO NG NRGH MERON MA NAME KR. BELASYOU, OK WA OK KASO, PERO ME GUSTO KA PA SA MAP HA FRELIMA MO YOU'RE MAPE FOR EACH OTHER TOLAGA



TEN AN SELFISH NO BAT





BY MANIX ABRERA



which clattere

We defied our fear and clambered onto the roller coaster, which clattered its way across the rails. It was fast, really fast, and the ride shook us hard, making us feel like frail rag dolls being

waved around by an angry brat.
At the end of the ride, our bodies were aching, we all felt weak
and one of us had lost a phone

We walked away from that perya with a ton of pictures and some temporary souvenirs—coaster ride that taught us conquering our fear could be fun.

Par Pastor



...KiLL the wall

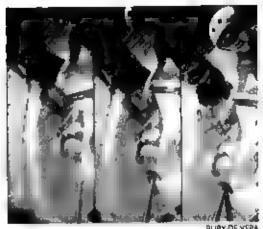


RAFTING, captured the fisheye way RONGRUZ





Shooting the rapids







SCENES from a very wet morning RUBY DE VERA

From page D1

asks the first-timers in the group to raise their hands. He then says it's his first time to guide, too. You laugh nervously, telling yourself that he's kid-

The guide demonstrates the different ways to paddle and you try to copy him. One of your rafting buddles starts laughing at the way you're holding your paddle.

Soon, you are asked to separate into two groups. You are grateful that you are in a raft with people who have gone white-water rafting be-

Stellar klutziness

Since there are just five of you, you end up sitting on the right side with only one other person. You are glad there is no one behind you. Otherwise, with your stellar klutziness, you would have ended up accidentally whacking that person on the head with the paddle

You find yourself in the middle of Cagayan River, padd..ng away. Your guide Mail says the current appears strong that day and you will be hitting 14 rapids

At that point, no trace of nervousness is left. You are actually excited.

You keep your foot constantly locked to make sure you don't fail out of the raft. Sure, the guide has taught you what to do in case you fell into the water (just he back and spread your legs)-but you have no plans of giving that a shot.

Safe and extreme

Mau says each rapid has a safe and extreme side. If he feels your group is good enough at paddling, he will give you the option of taking the extreme

You are with a group of enthusias tic paddlers and you can proudly say you have taken the extreme side of



every rapid except for one. After surviving each rapid, Mau would shout, "High five!" and you would knock paddles with the people with you, celebrating the fact that your raft did not tip over.

Your group is so hyper that when you're paddling between rapids, you actually make your raft spin to add to the excitement.

Because the strong current has made your raft move fast and you have time to spare, your guides decide it's time to give you a little treat You are asked to get off the rafts. With a lot of difficulty, you ship and trip your way to what looks like a cave.

The current is even stronger there and you have to form a line and hold on to the people beside you Mau is there to guide you, asking you to lie back, spread your legs and let the current carry you out of the cave

They call it "riding the rapids," you call it "getting river water into your nose and mouth and not caring because you are having too much fun."

The graduation rock

Soon, you're back on the raft, ready to hit the last two rapids. After the last one, Man says you are headed to the Graduation Rock. That's a rock where people who've survived the rapids can climb and leap off



Strangely, you feel a strong urge to do the jump. When Mau asks who would want to come, you're one of only four people to raise their hands You can feel the others' eyes on you, their faces covered with expressions of disbelief

You, the sissy who dove into the middle of the raft to avoid failing into the water, would actually leap off a rock into the icy river?

Soon, you're grapping your way up the rock. There's another guide there and he tells you where to stand From up there, the Graduation Rock no longer looks like a rock, it looks more like a cliff. And jumping seems extra-difficult because you have no steady footing, the rock's surface being too rough and jagged

The guide tells you to get ready. He says you have to make sure you jump far to avoid hitting the rock. Your

heart starts pounding as he starts counting "One, two, th---"

Plunging to your death

"Wait wait wait!" you say, looking at your companions who are sitting in the rafts, their cameras ready to capture your fal.

You take a deep breath, telling yourself that it's fine, that even if you plunged to your own death at least you were able to ask your compantons to tell your mom that you just wanted to see if you could do it

The guide starts counting again, "One, two, three!"

"Waint!" you say again. Your companions are laughing at this point and you start wondering if the guide is about to just pash you off the rock.

You take another deep breath and this time, when he counts, you fling yourself off the rock. Soon, you're falling falling falling, and you have only one thought in your head "Where's the water? Where's the wa-

The answer comes soon-when the water welcomes your body.

High fives

You grab the rope and pull yourself rowards the raft. You climb onboard again, your knees still shaking. You exchange high fives with the other people who have jumped and you start wondering if you can do it again

Soon you're paddling your way to the end of your adventure-and the end of the adventure signals the start of lunch

You have a feast of lechon, chicken, prawns, fish, steamed rice and bananas waiting. The river of your great adventure now serves as a backdrop for a good meal

On the way back to the city, heavy rain assaults the Jeepney you're riding, but you don't mind. A attle downpour is nothing, not when you're dreaming of shooting more rapids and leaping off many more rocks masquerading as mini-chffs.

Have your own rapid adventure

White water rafting costs around P1 200 per person and that includes lunch (but sadly, not the lechon). Visit www.raftingedo.com Our guides came from Red Refts River Tours



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Know...

Televiewers: Stop Joey de Leon

THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION host Willie Revillame, MTRCB Review and Classification Board has warned "Eat Bulaga" coing any more "aggravating" statements against "Wowowee"

Chair Marissa Laguardia said she issued the warning after rehost Joey de Leon against mak- cerving televiewers' complaints via text messages last week. Marinel R. Crus

Why KChas come home

sas feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/cky/message to 2)

By Marmel R. Cruz

OR HER GRADUATION GIFT, → KC Concepcion asked her mom, Sharon Cuneta, for two things: a Cartier watch, and permission to pursue a career in show business.

"I want her to always be happy with what I do. I don't think I'll be comfortable knowing that she's upset," Mega's daughter said during the launch of her ABS-CBN TV special, "KC from Paris to Pinas."

KC recently finished a BA in International Corporate Communications at the American University in Paris. She is back in the Philippines, she said, "To be of use to this industry and this country."

When you craved Filipino food in Paris, what did you eat?

I've been a pesco-vegetarian for six years now. That means I eat only seafood and vegetables. In Paris, I learned to make tuna adobo and bought vegetarian kare-kare from Filipinos there. Rice is the easiest thing to cook. I fry it with garlic.

When you felt homesick, what did you

From Paris, it's easy to travel to other European countries by train. So, whenever I needed to cheer myself up or see other sights, my friends and I take the train.

What's your favorite place in Paris?

There were cafés that I went to when I wanted to be alone. There are also very beautiful gardens there-very quiet, relaxing You will see some of them on the show.

Were you alone a lot?

Yes. Paris is a good place for thinking. But I have friends there and we did all sorts of things together.

Do you think it was easy for your mom to Was your dad (former actor Gabby Conlet you study abroad?

Of course she had apprehensions, as any mother would. We don't have relatives in promised he'd visit Paris with me someday.

Paris-but that was one of the reasons 1 wanted to study there.

TAKE

FIVE

KC CONCEPCION at

pression rom/Homillada

the "Paris to Pinas"

Aside from being independent, what other things did you learn that you can now apply to your life here?

To always explore. To always try to learn new things about other countries. I realized that we're too culturally isolated. We have a lot to learn about our neighbors, whether it's about fashion or politics.

When you're away, what do you miss about the country? When you're here, what do you miss about living abroad?

I miss the laughter, which is very much part of our culture. Sobrang masayahin tavo. Lahat kasi dinadaan sa biro-

When I'm here, I miss my independence. And I don't always have people around me, so there's time to reflect.

cepcion) at your graduation ceremony?

No, although he wanted to come. He

To be of use to this industry and this country'with mom Mega's permission

memorabilia from "Easy Rider,"

including the American flag

DALLAS—ACTOR PETER FON- et he wore throughout the film. da is auctioning off some of his Fonda was producer, co-writer and co-star of the groundbreaking 1969 movie. The flag has an taken from the back of the jackestimated value of \$50,000. AP



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as at winning for every 976 | P86 | P86

Fall Out Boy here for shows

Concepcion

RECENT MTV VIDEO Award-winning band Pall Out Boy is arriving in Manila today for two shows at the Araneta Couseum.

Both concerts, for tomorrow and Friday, are sold out Tickets went fast online via the MTV Philippines website.

Why is this young American band so

Formed in Chicago 2001, group-Patrick Stump (lead vocals, rhythm guitar, composer), Pete Wentz (bass guitar, backup vocals, lyncist), Joe Trohman (lead guitar), and Andy Huriey (drums)—draws its musical energy

from punk rock. Combined with Stump's earnest singing of Wentz's promy-drenched

lyrics, FOB bursts with an intensity that speaks directly to local fans, most probably in their college years.

The band first at tracted attention in the US two years ago with the release of its major label debut alburn, "From Under the Cork Tree," which went double platmum. But FOB's fame became more pronounced when FALL OUT/ E4

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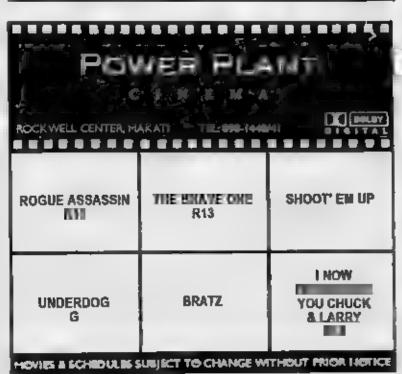
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DAVID Chase, "The Sopranos" creator and producer, with two Emmys: "It was all about the

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'Sopranos' win top Emmys LOS ANGELES—US MOB DRAMA "THE score any prizes in the acting categories.

Sopranos" said its final farewells when it picked up the top award from the 59th annual Emmy awards in Los Angeles on Sunday at television's equivalent of the Oscars.

The groundbreaking HBO series, which ended in June after an eight year run, took home the awards for Outstanding Drama, Best Writing and Directing, but failed to

In the comedy awards, NBC's "30 Rock," set in the offices of a New York television studio, packed up the top prize. Acting awards were shared by Ricky Gervais ("Extras") and America Ferrera ("Ugly Betty").

Sopranos creator David Chase, accepting the Best Drama award, said: "The best thing about this has been working with this cast. I couldn't have done it by myself, it seems like I did, but I didn't. This amazing cast is really what it comes down to."

Stealing from the mob

James Spader took the Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama award for his role as a quirky attorney in "Boston Legal," edging out James Gandolfini, who had been tipped for his role as Mafia boss Tony Soprano.

"I feel like I just stole a pile of money from the mob and they're all sitting right over there," Spader said as he took his trophy. Hugh Laurie had also been upped for the award for his role as a cranky doctor in "House."

"The Sopranos" had missed the top prize five times in the past, winning the statuette just once before, in 2004.



JAMES Spader



saures TINA Fey



ABUTERS



JAMES Gandolfini reaches over to kiss his girifriend Deborah Lin after "Sopranos" was declared

RELITERS



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Other shows competing for the top award were ABC hospital drama "Grey's Anatomy," law firm series "Boston Legal," also from ABC, Fox's popular hospital drama "House" and NBC's science fiction senes "Heroes." Two time Oscar winner Sally Field took home Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama and her third Emmy for the series "Brothers & Sisters."

A more open field

The top comedy award was more of an open field, with strong contenders in spoof workplace documentary "The Office," which won last year, and "Ugly Betty," about a smart but unattractive woman working at a fashion magazine.

But it was "30 Rock" that took home the

"We have the best cast and crew in all of television and . I want to thank every parent, child, spouse and gay partner of every person that works on our show," said cre-

ator and lead actress Tina Fey. The show also beat out strong challenges by HBO's winning "Entourage" and "Two and a Half Men."

Fey and "Desperate Housewives" actress Felicity Huffman lost out to America Fer-

"It is truly an amazing, wonderful thing that happens when your dreams come true," Ferrera told the star-studded gala at the Los Angeles Shrine Auditorium

Ricky Gervais won Best Comedy Actor for his "Extras," in a surprise win

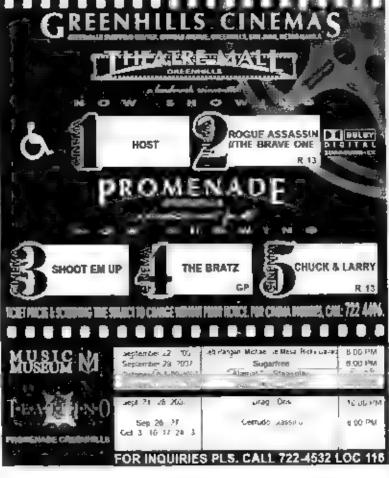
The biggest cheer

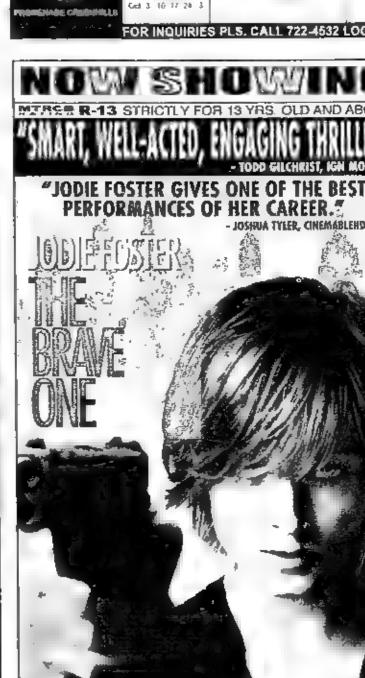
The biggest cheer of the evening went to former vice president and now environmental campaigner Al Gore, accepting an award for his Current TV-a cable channel based on viewer-created content.

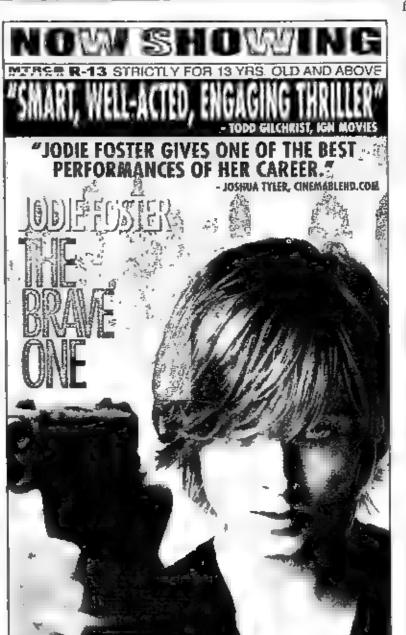
"We are trying to open up the medium so that viewers can belp to make television and join the conversation of democracy and reclaim American democracy by talking about the choices we have to make," Gore

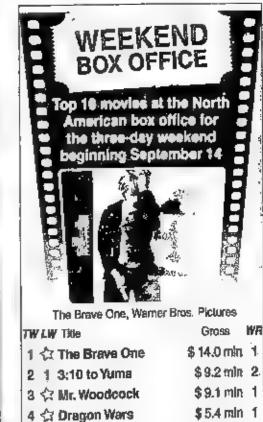
non i mo il picked up three awards, including Best Individual Performance in a Variety of Music Program.

Historical HBO special "Bury My Heart At Wounded Knee" won Outstanding Made for Television Movie.









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10 8 Mr. Bean's Holiday Weeks in Release This Week Last Wack ☼ New release

Based on studio estimates REUTERS 3 compiled on Sunday

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OPENS TODAY

A THE PROPERTY RELEASE THROUGH (8) BASEL



OPENING THIS WEEK

school girls. John Anderson of Variety says "most of the characters seem to be medicated."

The Host

Stars Song Kang-ho, Ko Asung, Bae Doo-na, Scott Wil-

Directed by Bong Joon-ho

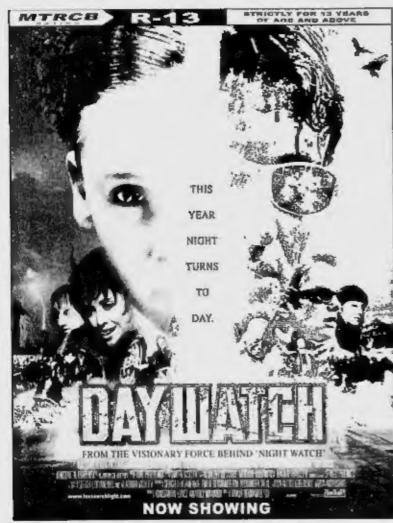
A hit in South Korea, about how a US military base creates a river monster with toxic wastes. Kevin Crust of Los Angeles Times commends its "subver-

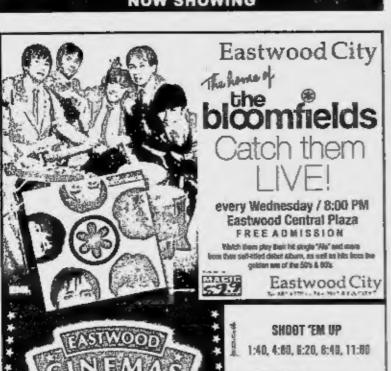
sive streak."

Joshua Stars Sam Rockwell, Vera Farmiga, Jacob Kogan, Dallas

Roberts

Directed by George Ratliff Screened at Sundance, this thriller tracks a rich family's slow descent into madness-as caused by a demon child. Teresa Budasi of Chicago Sun-Times asserts that it's "not only lovely to look at; it's also intriguing." Exclusively at Ayala Malls.





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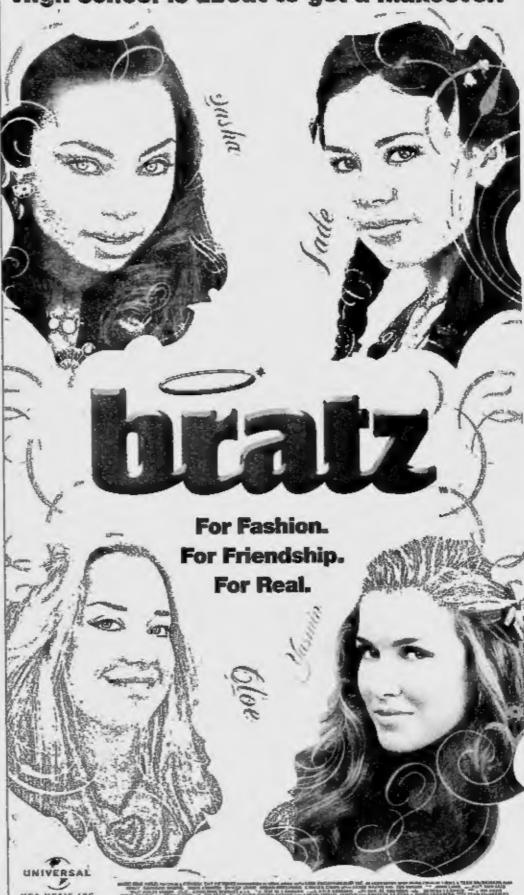
BRATZ 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 18:35

UNDERDOG ASSASSIN I:35, 11:00 R-13



OPENS TODAY

High school is about to get a makeover.







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From page El

heavy constion.

ENTERTAINMENT

Fall Out Boy . . .

MIV put the video of "Thaks fr th Mmrs" on

The video features a cast of chim-

panzees, orangutans and monkeys playing the song, interspersed with the band's own performance. It was criticized by animal

rights groups for showing the chimps in sexual acts-although drummer Hurley is Vegan and has done promotions for People

More than its engaging recorded sound, FOB should be exciting on stage, judging from the videos. It was also one of the younger artists who played at the Live Earth concerts.

for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.

The RP dates are part of a world tour.

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CHUCK & LARRY

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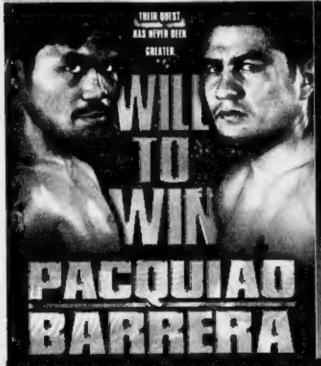
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HELEN MIRREN, accepting her award for "Prime Suspect: The Final Act" on Emmys night: "You Americans are a wonderfully generous people. You are a lot of things as well-some good, some bad."



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A LOVE STORY

UNDERDOG

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7 THE HOST

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3 indleSine: LIGAW LIHAM **8 LALKE SA PAROLA**

4 BRATZ 9 I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

5 SHOOT 'EM UP 10 ROGUE ASSASSIN

Ligaw Liham

It's one of the 10 finalists in the 2007 Cinemalaya Digital Film Festival, Stars Karylie and introduces John Michael Lee this film also features Bacolod's finest actors John Gilbert Arceo and George Macainan, Ligaw Liham was shot entirely in Negros.

showing on SEPTEMBER 12 to 20 Robinsons Movieworld Galleria

CHUCK & LARRY

Ticket Price: P110 / P126 ERMITA ...

1 SHOOT 'EM UP 2 HOST **51 NOW PRONOUNCE YOU**

3 ROGUE ASSASSIN 6 THE BRAVE ONE I KNOW WHO KILLED ME

4 LALAKE SA PAROLA 7 BRATZ **UNDERDOG**

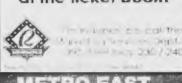
Watch LIVE via SATELLITE

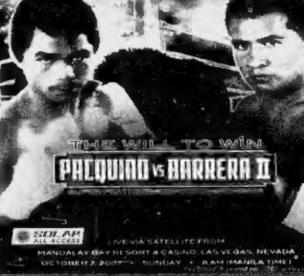
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA . MANILA **METRO EAST**

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday MA00:8

TICKET PRICE: P600 FREE holding, popcorn and drink for every ticket purchased

TICKETS are available at the ticket booth





METRO EAST Ticket Price: P100 / P110 682-8193 - 682-8199 **5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU** 1 UNDEERDOG **CHUCK & LARRY**

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3 SHOOT 'EM UP 7 BRATZ

8 RUSH HOUR 3 **4 ROGUE ASSASSIN**

Ticket Price: P90 / P100 935-3231 / 936-3229-30 NOVALICHES

3 ROGUE ASSASSIN 1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU 4 UNDERDOG **CHUCK & LARRY**

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1 UNDERDOG 2 DISTURBIA 2 1408 3 THE INVASION 3 SKINWALKERS 4 1408 4 THE LAST KING of SCOTLAND **5 SKINWALKERS / HAIRSPRAY 5 THE LAST LEGION 8 THE LAST LEGION 6 THE WAITRESS**

ENTERTAINMENT

Top of the weekend's talk shows

OPENING THIS WEEK

Gulong

Stars Barbara Perez, Robert Arevalo, Gary Valenciano, Lou Veloso

Directed by Sockie Fernandez

An entry in this year's Cinemalaya independent film festival, this summer reverie follows a trio of boys as they try to raise enough money to buy a bicycle. Cinemalaya juror Lito Zulueta comments: "[It] may have a tendency to be overly optimistic ... but [it] delivers as much as it moves." Opens Sept. 22 at IndieSine Robinsons Galleria

Shoot 'Em Up

12:55/3:45/6:35/9:25

Stars Clive Owen, Monica Bratz Bellucci, Paul Giamatti. Greg Bryk

Michael Jon Voight Directed by Davis

An enigmatic loner saves a mara hooker and a baby from a ma-

Frank Scheck of Hollywood Reporter: "It's all very silly, but also undeniably fun."

I Now Pronounce You Chuck and Larry

Stars Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Jessica Biel, Steve Buscemi

Directed by Dennis Dugan

Two macho firemen pretend to be a gay couple to illegally secure pension benefits. David Ansen of Newsweek complains: "The premise is high concept of a low order ... not a movie I'd recommend to friends."

Stars Nathalia Ramos, Skyler Shaye, Janel Parrish,

Directed by Sean McNa-

Based on a line of highniacal killer. Peter Travers of fashion dolls and a TV carBy the Inquirer and Inquirer net **Entertainment Staff**

LAST WEEKEND'S TALK SHOWS WERE packed, people. Here are the highlights, for those who missed them. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

 Alfred Vargas on girlfriend LJ Reyes' reported decision to go sexy: "Ipapaubaya ko na sa kanya 'yan. Basta kung ano ang desisyon niya, susuportahan ko lang. Yun naman ang role ko bilang RUSHES lalake 'di ba? Confident ako na 'di niya ipu-push to the limit na sobra-sobra. Sexy siya; dapat makita ng mundo 'yon." (Parang wala yata siyang choice.)

KC-Lino-Billy

 KC Concepcion on the prospect of working with her rumored boyfriend, TVfilm director Lino Cayetano: "I'm open to working with admirable directors. I think he's one of them."

 Lino's response: "Gusto ko napaka-galing na director ang makaka-pares niya, hin-

· Billy Crawford on KC's denial that they were ever together (he earlier said on a radio program that KC was a "good kisser"):

"If I offended KC in any way, I apologize. I haven't spoken to her lately [so] I don't want to

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METRO EAST

OCTOBER 7 • Sunday

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comment so much (on that). I'd rather speak to her in person." (What about her mom?)

 Sunshine Dizon on Angelu de Leon's revelation that a former partner is now linked to the "Impostora" star: "Does that matter? We're not friends." (Oo nga na-

 Martin Nievera on having invited Jomari Yllana, by text, to dinner: "He didn't reply ... I think maybe he's a little bit ... up-

 Martin's ex-wife Pops Fernandez, currently Jom's girlfriend, on the incident: "I know there was absolutely no malice intended. I think he did not get the text right away. So by the time na naka-pangallong text na, doon lang yata niya nakita. Pero 1 don't know the real story. I don't know ex-

actly what happened then. I wasn't here." (That's quite enough.)

. Jom speaks out on the "no-reply" issue: "I have no reason to get upset. Kahit hindi ako nag-reply sa text ... nirerespeto ko lang 'yung pagiging magulang nila. So labas ako doon sa problema nila. Wala namang ibang makaka-solve noon kundi sila. Wish ko rin na maayos ang dapat maayos. Pero labas ako doon." (Don't ask him again.)

'No, I didn't!'

 Martin Jickain on rumors resulting from his separation from wife Aiko Melendez: "Hindi po totoong nagka-casino o nagsusugal ako. Hindi rin totoong I'm into drugs. Hindi ako nambababae. Hindi rin totoong nilulustay ko ang pera ni Aiko. Hindi rin totoo yung ninakaw ko yung mga Louis Vuitton bags niya at



AIKO Melendez and Martin

ko naman po ang flat TV, hihigaan ko?" (There are a few things we can suggest

flat TV Aanhin

 Aiko's MANOT NEWSERO manager Wyngard Tracy on

the Aiko-Martin split: "Nalungkot ako, siyempre. Ninong ako sa kasal nila. Si Aiko minsan kasi, madaling umibig. Ang sinabi ko lang, 'Alam niyo [ba] ang pinapasok niyo? Do you really love each other?'

Madalas [kasi] ... physical attraction. Tapos pag nagkakilala ng tunay na ugali, ayan na." (Voice of reason. Listen, y'alli)

• Rustom Padilla on how winning the Urian Best Actor award helped him win his family back: "After nu'ng awards night, si Robin inaya ako mag-dinner. So nagdi-dinner kami, tinawagan niya si Mama, Binigay niya sa akin [yung,

phone]." Former actress Eva Cariño on coping with Rustom's revelation that he was gay: "Nu'ng una ... parang hindi ko matanggap. Nu'ng huling nagkita [kami] ... after mga 30 minutes, nawala na lang siyang bigla. Naisip ko, siguro talagang lumalayo

 Rustom on why he moved away: "Sabi ko papatunayan ko na I will be a good son, regardless kung ano ako ... darating ang panahon na maipagmamalaki din [nila] ako."

siya."

the will to win

Carnal instinct Snooky Serna on filing an annulment case against husband Nino Mendoza: "At that point in [my life], magulo ang isip ko. I pushed through with the marriage out of my own carnal instinct." (Informa-

tion overload!)

· Willie Revillame's message to daughter Meryll Soriano after giving birth and winning the Urian Best Supporting Actress award: "Hindi ka na lang basta-basta ordinaryong babae. Kung ano man ang nangyari sa amin ng mama mo, sana hindi ganoon ang maging buhay mo."



WILLIE REVILLAME



BRATZ SHOOT EM UP THE BRAVE ONE DIGITALIA 1230/245/500/7:15/939 120/4/10/7/00/9:50 100/3/0/620/900

MALL CINEMAS

2:05 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20

SHOOT EM UP 1200, 2.40/520/800

1210/3/00/550/840

THE JOY

I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY 1205/215/425/635/845

ARANETA COLISEUM

NCAA BASKETBALL FINALS

September 19, Wednesday

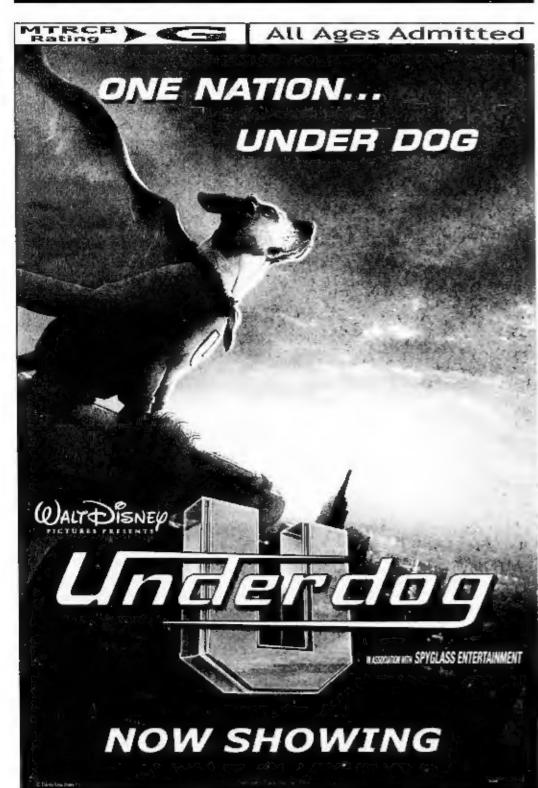
2pm CSJL vs SSC-R Jrs / 4pm CSJL vs SBC Srs

FALL OUT BOY CONCERT

Friends or Enemies World Tour

September 20 & 21, Thursday & Friday 8 pm

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BEST ACTOR

a SONG Gang-ho, BYUN Hee-bong, PARK Hae-il, BAE Doo-na, GOH Ah-sung

ervisor Kesin Hallierty - Visual Effects and Animation by The Grphanag

presented by Changeoraban Films, Showbox Mediaplex, Inc.] a Changeorahan Films production over 1001 yang bar, k1M Wanstek, 30.00 far-sung ; producer 1001 yang bar, k1M Wanstek, 30.00 far-sung ; producer 1001 yang bar ; co-producer 2001 yeng yen | directed by 1000 Joor-by coorpin 1000 fara-ba, 11 M Hong yes. BASE Challegun ; original story 1000 fara-bar cinematography KIM Hyang yes.